

Bank Teller Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1951

Collectors of mechanical banks will be interested in this unusual specimen. F.H. Griffith, who recently procured the bank writes:

"Dr. Corby is the only other collector to have one of these and he obtained his approximately fifteen years ago. This bank is one of the real rarities, and as you can see by the picture, in excellent condition. It operates perfectly. When you insert a coin in his extended left hand, he lowers his arm, drops the coin in the bank and nods his head. It was patented August 1, 1876 under patent number 180574 by Mr. Arthur C. Gould of Brookline, Mass. In the patent papers, copy of which I have, he calls the bank "Androidal or Automatic Cashier." The bank is made of cast iron with the exception of the left arm, which is made in two sections of a metal stamping. The grill work is black with colored trimming and the man has a black frock coat, gray trousers and skin colored face and hands.

"This bank is also known as the Tall Teller, Tall Man in Frock Coat Beside Three Sided Grill and Preacher In The Pulpit. However, I believe the name Bank Teller is the more proper name.

"I purchased the bank of Erwin H. Gold of Hollywood, California. I had three telephone conversations with him in order to obtain the bank and he informed me that he found the bank in Los Angeles, California.

"I am not certain what foundry made this bank, however, I feel sure it was made in New England and possibly by Stevens. A number of the mechanical banks whose action is caused by the weight of a coin were patented by a man named Hall and made by Stevens. These included Hall's Lilliput, Hall's Excelsior, Tammany and others."

Freedman's Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1951

The Freedman's Bank is the most desirable and rarest of all mechanical banks because of its vivid intriguing action, interesting background and scarcity. It is different from the usual cast iron type being made of wood, cloth, white metal, with metal frame, clock works and one brass hand and fingers.

The bank was made by Jerome B. Secor in Bridgeport, Conn., from about 1878 to 1883. It originally sold for approximately \$7.50 retail, around 1880 which was quite a price for a toy in those days.

The bank pictured was obtained from Mark Haber of Wethersfield, Conn., who in turn obtained it from the original owner, D.L. Wale of Windsor, Conn., in 1944. Mr. Wale was given the bank by an uncle in 1879. It is the only perfect original specimen so far found. There are three others known to exist in collections. One with a replaced head and new clothes - one with no legs on the figure or table - and the last consisting only of the clock works.

The bank operates as follows: First, a coin is placed on the table by his left hand, then a lever is pressed, the figure then turns his head from side to side and scoops the coin with his left hand into a hole in the table top, he then raises his right hand to his face holding his head still and thumbs his nose, moving each finger independently in a realistic way, he then lowers his hand and shakes his head in derision. Two positions of the operation are shown.

It is interesting to note that the bank pictured has the original label on the back with instructions to operate and the original label on the bottom of the table from the store where it was purchased.

Clown Harlequin and Columbine Bank by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1951

The Clown Harlequin and Columbine Bank rates second as the most sought after bank from a collector's standpoint. Certainly it is the most desirable and rarest of all mechanicals made of cast iron.

The bank was undoubtedly designed by J.H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., who also designed Darktown Battery, Creedmore, Bulldog Bank, Owl, Two Bullfrogs, Monkey and Coconut, Girl Skipping Rope, Cat and Mouse, Spise A Mule, and The Calamity, whose operation principle is similar to the Harlequin. It's interesting to note that the construction of the figures on the Calamity and the Harlequin is the same. The Harlequin Bank for sometime has been attributed to patent No. 196966 issued to J. Blanc, November 13, 1877, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, however, the bank actually wasn't made until 1906 by Stevens in Cromwell, Connecticut, and all indications show the workmanship of Bowen.

The bank pictured was obtained from A.L. Cooper, of Dayton, Ohio, he obtained it from Mark Haber of Wethersfield, Connecticut, who in turn purchased it from the late James C. Jones collection.

The bank operates as follows: The three figures are moved from the position shown, on an axis under the Clown so that they are in the reverse position. The coin is then inserted between the figure of the Harlequin and the Clown. A lever on the right is pressed and the figures automatically reverse themselves causing the figure of Columbine to spin and the coin is automatically deposited in the bank. The entire action is quite realistic and intriguing and the bank is painted in bright attractive colors of red, yellow, silver and white. So far there are six of these banks known to be in private collections.

Merry-Go-Round Bank by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1951

If there is anything that can take a person back to their childhood quick as a flash certainly the sight of a merry-go-round does just that, and apparently this is an outstanding point contributing to the desirability of the Merry-Go-Round Bank. Its nice action coupled with its attractive appearance and rarity rank this bank in the third position.

It is not definitely known as yet what company manufactured the bank, however it is interesting to note that the same type of four-leaf clover perforated casting is used in the base plate on the Roller Skating Bank, the Confectionery Bank and the Merry-Go-Round. Also the same type solid figures appear both on the Merry-Go-Round and the Roller Skating Banks. There is no definite information on the Roller Skating Bank either, however it is known that the Confectionery Bank was manufactured by Kyser and Rex in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and with the above similarity between the three it is fairly reasonable to assume that they manufactured the Merry-Go-Round and further that it was designed by R.M. Hunter. The bank was probably made in the 1880's.

The particular bank pictured was obtained through L.C. Hegarty, well known collector, who in turn obtained it from A.W. Pendergast.

The bank operates as follows: First a coin is inserted in the slot beside the small man with whip in hand, then a crank is turned and the man moves back and forth as though whipping the animals or knocking the coin in the bank. The coin actually drops in automatically. As the crank is turned the animals suspended from the canopy revolve and a bell rings. The colors are quite bright and gay, the canopy being red, white and blue and the base is red, gold and tan, while the animals and figures are painted in natural colors. It is interesting to note that the animals consist of an elephant, a camel, a swan, a pony, and an ostrich which is significant because the older, better type merry-go-rounds consisted of different animals rather than just horses.

It might be well to point out at this point in these articles that the desirability or value of a mechanical bank is not necessarily governed by its age or rarity. As example, there is only one known specimen of Little Moe but its value does not compare with the Harlequin of which at least six are known to exist. As further example, the Halls Excelsior Bank dated 1869 is the earliest known dated cast iron bank but at the same time the most common and least expensive to purchase. The value and desirability is further enhanced by the action, the subject of the bank and then, of course, its general condition as to paint and proper operation.

Shoot The Chute Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1952

The selection of the fourth most desirable mechanical bank poses quite a problem as there are a number of rare and wanted banks that come into the picture after the three obvious leaders, namely Freedman's, Harlequin, and Merry-Go-Round, which have been covered in previous articles. However, considering the various things that rate a bank among the top in desirability, the Shoot the Chute would seem to qualify for fourth position.

The bank was designed by Mr. Charles Bailey, unquestionably the leader in the field of mechanical bank designing, and manufactured by Stevens in Cromwell, Connecticut. It was patented March 27, 1906 and shown in the Stevens Catalog of that year.

The bank pictured was obtained from V.D. Howe who in turn had purchased it from an antique dealer in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. A point of interest is the fact that the antique dealer found the bank in an old department store where they were disposing of an accumulation of items that had been gathering dust for years in an unused room.

The bank is attractively painted in bright red and gold and has as its theme the ever popular Buster Brown and Tige riding in the car. It operates as follows: First the extension part of the chute is raised as shown in the picture. Normally this is flat against the back of the base. A coin is then placed midway on the chute and the car is released from the top of the extension. As the car slides down the chute it hits the coin and knocks it in the bank, as the coin goes into the bank it hits a lever which raises a hook at the end of the chute. The car hits the hook and Buster Brown and Tige are dumped from the car head over heels.

It is interesting to note that the use of a coin is necessary for the proper action to take place. This bank, of course, could be played with as a toy and to the ordinary person it would not at first appear to be a bank. However, the fact that a coin is necessary to cause proper action is a very desirable feature from a collector's viewpoint.

There are eight of these banks known to be in private collections, not, however, all with original cars and bases. The bank shown is original throughout and in mint condition.

Mikado Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1952

The Mikado Bank, of which there is so little known as to origin, ranks in the fifth position among the top mechanical banks.

To the best of the writer's knowledge, it is not definitely known who manufactured or designed the bank and there is no patent information to trace. However, from certain indications such as the coin trap, inside construction, and design, it would seem to be the work of Kyser and Rex, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They manufactured the Baby Mine Bank and the coin trap on that bank and the Mikado are interchangeable.

The bank pictured was obtained through the good help of Dr. Arthur E. Corby who, by the way, was among the first to collect banks.

Ordinarily without patent information it would be difficult to say just when a bank was manufactured. However, in the case of the Mikado, we have definite information in the Selchow and Richter Catalog of 1886 in which the bank is pictured. Let's quote from this catalog which will also cover the operation of the bank:

"We present this year a Japanese Magic Bank. Place the coin in the recess in the top of the cabinet under the hat in the Mikado's right hand and when the lever is turned the coin will disappear and reappear under the hat in his left hand where it will remain until another coin is deposited, when the first coin will drop into the bank. A sweet chime of bells will be heard when the lever is turned. The bank is richly painted and decorated and packed each in a wooden box. Price \$8.50 per dozen."

The bank pictured is original throughout. A note of interest is the fact that this bank was made to use the old large copper pennies and only operates properly when such coins are used.

Germania Exchange Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1952

In arriving at the selection of the mechanical bank which ranks in sixth position, again we are confronted with one of which there is little known as to actual origin, namely, the Germania Exchange Bank.

As is the case with some other top banks, there is no definite proof as to who manufactured or designed the bank, and again there is no patent information to trace. There are, however, certain salient features, such as the goat which is made in lead or white metal, and the general characteristics of the Germania Bank that would lead one to the top bank designer, namely Mr. Charles Bailey. It is known that Bailey made the Bismark Bank and this consists of a cast iron pig with a lead or white metal figure of Bismark popping out of the pig's back. Also, since Mr. Bailey spent so much time at the Stevens Factory in Cromwell, Connecticut, we can assume that they manufactured the bank.

The bank shown was added to the writer's collection through the good help of Mr. Mark Haber of Wethersfield, Connecticut, who obtained it from the late James C. Jones' collection. Mr. Jones had in turn obtained it from the late Norman E. Sherwood who made a business some years back of selling mechanical banks to collectors.

So far all banks shown in these articles have been in original condition with no repairs. The bank pictured here has had some slight repairs made to the horns and one of the brackets holding

the barrel. It might be well to point out here that in the case of rare banks, minor repairs of this nature do not greatly affect the value. The bank is painted in bright colors, the barrel being tan with red striping, the bracket feet are red, and the goat is painted in a realistic way with black tail and horns. To operate the bank, the coin is placed in the goat's tail, then the handle on the spigot is turned. This causes the goat to rise on its hind legs, the coin automatically drops into the bank, and the goat stands up holding a gold mug in its two front paws.

For sometime there has existed a story that this particular bank was made years ago in celebration of a brewery party that was held at a hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. However, it is definitely the writer's opinion that this was actually a mechanical bank manufactured for sale in stores, the same as the other mechanical banks. Some proof of this is brought out by the fact that the specimen owned by Mr. L.C. Hegerty is painted differently than that in the writer's collection. The barrel and the supporting brackets on his specimen are japanned or lacquered and it was definitely painted this way originally. The painting on the Germania bank in Dr. Corby's collection is identical to that in the writer's collection. Had this bank been manufactured for any particular occasion as a one-time proposition all of them undoubtedly would have been painted alike. Then, too, had this bank been made for a special occasion to advertise a brewery, there would have been some other wording on the bank other than "Germania Exchange Bank", such as the name of the brewery or its product.

It is interesting to note that in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, there existed a Germania Savings Bank which was organized April 8, 1870 and went out of existence sometime in 1919. This bank originated through German-American extraction and could conceivably have some bearing on the manufacture and naming of the Germania Exchange mechanical bank.

There are four of these banks known to exist in private collections.

Germania Exchange Bank – Referring back to the article on the Germania Exchange Bank in the March issue, evidence supporting the opinion that this bank was not made for any special occasion or party has come forth in an interesting letter from Mrs. Harvey Warner of Michigan. It seems that her husband's parents purchased a Germania Exchange Bank for him when he was a small boy, as she says in her letter "probably 50 or more years ago." The bank was purchased in a store in Cleveland, Ohio, and has been in his possession ever since.

This letter from Mrs. Warner substantiates the expressed opinion that the Germania Exchange Bank was sold as a commercial item in stores.

Girl Skipping Rope Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1952

In placing the Girl Skipping Rope Bank in 7th position in the numerical classification of mechanical banks based on desirability and rarity, the writer expects that a number of collectors will question the ranking of this bank. It is to be admitted that there are certainly rarer banks which are also quite desirable that would on the surface seem to be logically ahead of the Girl Skipping Rope. As example, Roller Skating, Springing Cat, Circus Bank, Giant, Old Woman in the Shoe, Sportsman's Bank, and Little Red Riding Hood. However, there is no other bank that rates over the Girl Skipping Rope as being a "must" in any collection of mechanical banks. Furthermore, this bank in the past few years has increased in monetary value far ahead of many other rare banks. Then, too, it has become increasingly scarce over the same period as more collectors have come into the field. The writer in placing the bank so high has tried not to be influenced by personal

opinion or favoritism.

The bank was designed and patented by Mr. J.H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 20, 1890. It was manufactured by the Stevens Company in Cromwell, Connecticut. Some years ago the writer was fortunate enough to talk to several men who had helped to make this bank in the Stevens foundry and found they had more difficulty with it than any bank they had ever manufactured due to the involved casting of the enclosure covering the mechanism. This was due to the problem of having the metal flow properly into the mold, necessary to make the two-piece curved intricate casting.

The bank was obtained from an antique dealer in Albany, New York, some years back and is original throughout and in perfect working condition. It is painted in bright colors, the base being red, green, yellow and gold, and the girl's dress is painted yellow and green. It operates as follows: the coin is inserted, as shown, by the squirrel, then a key which winds up the mechanism is inserted just above the squirrel. The lever located between the girl and the mechanism is pressed and the following action takes place: the coin automatically drops in the bank, the rope revolves, the girl moves up and down, each leg moves back and forth realistically, and at the same time her head turns from side to side. The whole action is quite realistic and it is the most mechanical of all the banks.

Very few of the mechanical banks were made for girls only and obviously the Girl Skipping Rope comes into this category. Originally this bank was called the Jumping Rope Bank and it is listed as such in one of the old Stevens' catalogs. However, for some years now it has come to be called the Girl Skipping Rope Bank.

Bread Winners Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1952

The articles in this series have reached a point where we now have a fair size group of rare wanted banks which are difficult to classify numerically. Here we enter into a phase where personal opinion and preference would govern, to a large degree, the numerical listing. In other words, there are a number of banks that are quite rare and desirable which are all on a fairly equal level. In this group there is a fine dividing line in ranking one ahead of the other.

The Bread Winners Bank is ranked in eighth position due to its nice action and rarity plus the two additional features involving the clever inference to the labor problem of that period. Also there are very few specimens that are in original condition without repairs.

There are no patent markings, numbers, or dates on the Bread Winners Bank, and to the best of the writer's knowledge, the design of the bank was never patented. Using the figures on the bank as a guidepost there are definite characteristics indicating the work of Charles Bailey and it is known that the bank was manufactured by the J.&E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut, in the 1880's.

The bank pictured was obtained by the writer in an antique shop on Charles Street in Boston, Massachusetts, a few years ago. It was found by the dealer in a house in New Hampshire where it had been packed away for years in a trunk in an attic. The fact that the bank had been carefully packed away for sometime, no doubt, accounts for the excellent condition of the paint and also that it is original throughout with no repairs of any kind.

On each side of the base of the bank there are inscriptions. On the left are the words "Send The Rascals Up" and on the right "Bread Winners Bank." A figure of a banker with his head sticking

out of a sack is shown. The sack bears the wording "Boodle, Steal, Bribery." The rascal in the center is holding a club in his hands and on this is written the word "Monopoly." On the loaf of bread which is to the right of the anvil is inscribed "Honest Labor Bread." The figure on the end represents an honest laborer who is being threatened by the rascal. The significance of this is the familiar controversy between labor and capitalism, the banker shown up to his neck in boodle (or money) using the rascal by bribery to wave the club of monopoly at labor who in turn is trying to earn an honest living.

To operate the bank the hammer is raised to the position shown in the picture, then a coin is inserted in the end of the club held by the rascal. There is a small lever in the back of the laborer which is pressed. This causes the hammer to come down with a sound blow on the club held by the rascal. He flies up in the air and the coin is deposited in the loaf of bread. The story portrayed by this action of course is that labor wins over monopoly and the wealthy banker.

The operation of the bank and the way it is made are two reasons there are so few in original condition. In the first place construction of the labor figure is such that the operation of the spring mechanism usually causes the casting of the figure to break. Also the figure of the rascal is loosely attached to the bank and is usually missing. Due to its rather delicate construction very few of the banks remained intact after any slight degree of rough treatment which could be expected as these banks were still essentially children's toys.

The bank is painted in bright colors, the base being red on one side and blue on the other and the figures themselves are painted realistically.

To sum it all up, the Bread Winners Bank, is an extremely desirable specimen to have in a collection not only because it is rare and its action interesting, but also it stands out from all the rest with its theme of a seemingly never ending controversy.

Sportsman Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1952

The Sportsman Bank with its appealing subject, a hunter, plus its rarity and good action is the ninth ranking bank in our numerical listing.

The bank has a patent date of June 14, 1892 which is inscribed on the spring release mechanism that causes the bird to go flying through the air. It was manufactured by the J.&E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut the most prolific of the bank manufacturers.

The pictured specimen was added to the writer's collection through the help of Mr. Ellis who had the Ellis Old Toy Shop in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He obtained this bank from its original source in a home outside Philadelphia.

The bank has very nice action and operates as follows: First the loop spring that holds the bird is depressed and the bird placed thereon as shown. Then a coin is placed just forward of the hunter in a slot in the base, the lever is then pressed and all action takes place simultaneously. The bird goes flying off into the air and the hunter swings with the flight of the bird and fires his gun. A string attached to the bird pulls it down realistically just as though it had been shot. The gun is so arranged that it will fire a cap and of course this adds to the realism.

The bank is painted in nice colors, the base is yellow and red and the hunter in a tan outfit. The bird is gold.

As a rule when one of these banks turns up the bird is usually missing. Another drawback in finding this bank in original condition is the fact that the figure of the hunter is attached to the bank

by a small casting which turns the figure and the entire part is very easily broken off.

The Sportsman Bank differs from most others in that the hunter's figure is a smooth casting and the defining lines of the clothing are painted on. Usually the figures on the banks were cast with detail parts of the clothing defined, such as belts, ties, wrinkles, and the like.

It is interesting to note that this bank in recent years has been called the Fowler Bank by collectors. However, in old catalogs and Stevens' literature it was definitely named the Sportsman Bank. There is no name cast on the bank itself.

The bank shown is original without repairs with the exception of the bird which is cast from an original specimen. The paint on the bank shows an interesting amount of wear in that it was obviously used by a child. In some cases banks are found in so called mint condition, that is they have had little or no use at all. Further, some have been found in original wood boxes. It is a matter of opinion as to preference in banks that show some wear or ones that are mint. Personally the writer prefers some signs of use but naturally with good paint.

There is also a difference of opinion as to leaving bank as they are found, dirty or not, or cleaning them up. Also, a few collectors keep banks in their collections whether they operate properly or not. The writer first takes apart any banks he gets and cleans them very carefully. Care must be used on painted parts as some of the old paints are soluble in soaps or scouring powders as made today. Every part is then waxed and reassembled and the bank put in perfect working order. After all, one of the most interesting things about mechanical banks is their fascinating operation. As to repainting a bank or touching it up, this should be avoided unless it is absolutely necessary. Here again it's largely a matter of opinion.

Some banks are found repainted, the repainting having been done years ago. This was rather common in the mechanical bank period as toys were often repainted and given to the child over again at Christmas or a birthday. It's possible to get down to the original paint when this has been done. Usually the bank was not cleaned before repainting and this leaves an oily surface between the old paint and repaint. Careful work and time can accomplish removal of the outer paint.

By the way, it would be good advice for antique dealers to leave banks as found and sell them that way. Many a bank has had its value decreased by poor repair work or removal of most of the paint by improper cleaning. Let the collector do with them as he chooses.

Giant Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1952

In occupying tenth position in our listing of mechanical banks, an uglier, more grotesque, less attractive bank than the Giant couldn't be picked. Of course, this fact in itself is the contributing factor that makes it rare and extremely desirable to a collector.

Apparently there isn't too much known about the background of the Giant bank. There are no markings of any kind and so far no patent papers have been found. It was definitely made in the 1880's as an old catalog discussed further on in the article proves this point. There are certain features that would indicate the work of the H.L. Judd Company of Wallingford, Conn., who in the 1880's made a number of mechanical banks such as Gem, Dog On Turntable, Mosque, Miniature Bucking Ram, and others. These banks have one thing in common with the Giant and that is the use of a brown or bronze type lacquer finish. However, it's also possible that the Giant could have been manufactured by the Trenton Lock and Hardware Company of Trenton, N.J., who made the Pelican bank. Their type workmanship and paint on the Pelican is similar to that of the Giant.

The bank shown was obtained from B.H. O'Connell of Binghamton, N.Y. The paint which is entirely different from that on the banks covered so far is in excellent condition. The base is a brown colored lacquer and the figure a gold tinted lacquer. The bank is original with the exception of the lever protruding from the base, which when pressed causes its operation. This lever was supplied through the good help of Andrew Emerine, one of the leading collectors of mechanical banks. The upper part of the rock-type formation in the back of the figure has one peak broken off. This missing piece in no way affects the operation of the bank and the fact it's broken off is not too obvious from an appearance standpoint so no repair has been made.

Through the years of collecting the writer has had only one opportunity of obtaining a Giant bank and, of course, it is the one pictured. It has always been a policy to have as near perfect specimens as possible in the collection. As example, over the period of time in collecting banks the writer has owned three Girl Skipping Rope banks, finally getting the nice specimen now in the collection. Of course, the rarer and more desirable a bank is, the more difficult this is to accomplish. Generally speaking a collector buys a bank in most any condition as long as he doesn't have it. This particularly applies to rare banks.

The Giant operates as follows: The lever is first pressed and he raises both arms threatening the operator with the club in his right hand. At the same time his lower jaw drops and he sticks out a red tongue. The coin is put on his tongue and the lever released. He swallows the coin and it is automatically deposited in the rock-like formation in back of the figure. His arms drop to the position shown.

Needless to say, the appearance of this bank contributes to its rarity. Picture yourself, in the period, buying a bank for your small son to encourage his saving. If there was a Darktown Battery or most any of the other mechanical banks on display with the Giant, you would probably not buy the Giant due to its unattractive appearance.

The writer was fortunate recently in adding to his collection a rare catalog which pictures the Giant bank. This was obtained through the help of C.E.H. Whitlock of New Haven, Conn. The catalog was issued in 1885 by the Unexcelled Fireworks Company of New York City. In with the toy pistols and other fireworks is the picture of the Giant Bank. A sub-title calls it "The Giant That Jack Killed" and lists it at \$8.50 a dozen. It was a point of unusual interest to find that a fireworks concern had sold a mechanical bank. Then too, the authentic period of manufacture is established by the date of the catalog.

There are eight of these banks known to exist in private collections.

Roller Skating Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1952

Mechanical banks, while fascinating from a number of angles, are certainly intriguing in the wide subject matter they cover and represent. Take for example, the variety of subjects we have already covered in the first ten banks: the Civil War period as represented by the Freedman; an Italian and English fantasy in the Clown Harlequin and Columbine; a merry-go-round at the park; a Japanese magician; a shoot-the-chutes; a goat on a beer barrel; a girl skipping rope; a labor-capitalist problem satirized; a hunter shooting a bird; and finally a giant.

Now we move into the pleasant thoughts surrounding the fun of roller skating as we rate the eleventh bank, namely, the Roller Skating Bank, with its appealing subject, nice action, and rarity.

Here again, as is often the case with the rarer banks, we are confronted with the problem of

having practically no factual background knowledge. There are no markings or dates on the bank and apparently no patent papers exist. There is one definite similarity between this bank, the Confectionery Bank, the Chimpanzee Bank, and the Merry-Go-Round Bank, and that is the same clover leaf type perforations are cast in the base of the bank. Since we know the Confectionery and Chimpanzee were both made by Kyser and Rex in Philadelphia, it's reasonable to assume they also manufactured the Roller Skating Bank, probably in the period of the 1880's. Further, it's very likely that it was designed by R.M. Hunter.

The bank pictured is one of the few obtained by the writer first hand in a home. It was in the possession of a family who live in a small town in Ohio. They had a general interest in antiques and their home was nicely furnished with them. Some years ago they found the bank in an old blacksmith shop and persuaded the smithy to part with it. They in turn used it to entertain children who came to visit them, and if memory serves correctly, specifically one grandchild. The children were allowed to operate the bank with coins but not play with it and this contributed to its nice condition.

The bank operates as follows: First, the figures of the boy and girl are moved into the position shown in the picture, then a coin is placed in the slot located in the top of the skate rack to the rear of the bank. When the button between the two skaters is pressed they skate in half circles to the boy holding a wreath in his hands. He turns and presents this to the girl and at the same time the coin drops into the bank automatically.

The bank is painted in bright colors, the base is gray with red trim and the figures are done in a natural way. It is entirely original with no repairs and the paint is in excellent condition.

It is interesting to note that the designer of this bank very carefully put roller skates on the boy and girl skaters, but the two prone figures who apparently are supposed to have just fallen have no skates on at all. This is a curious oversight when you consider the degree of meticulous detail used by the majority of the bank designers.

Springing Cat Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1952

A very rare and unusual bank, the Springing Cat, is our choice to occupy the twelfth position in the numerical listing of mechanical banks.

The bank was patented July 18, 1882 by Charles A. Bailey and manufactured completely in his own workshop in Cobalt, Conn. This bank was made before he became affiliated with the J. and E. Stevens Company in Cromwell, Conn. Unlike all banks covered so far, with the exception of the Freedman's, it is not made of cast iron, the base and figures being lead or pewter-like metal and the bottom plate of wood with a round wood coin trap. Some people erroneously think that this bank is white metal. An unusual feature of the bank is the fact that the base parts are assembled by means of soldering and the wood base plate held in place by small brads.

Mr. Bailey employed a well known theme with clever action when he designed the Springing Cat Bank and it operates as follows: The cat is placed in the position shown in the picture at the right end of the bank. A coin is then inserted, as shown, in a slot provided for this purpose. The ring type lever is pulled and the cat springs through the air. At the same time a little mouse appears and knocks the coin in the bank and immediately disappears back into the base just as the cat completes his leap toward him. During operation the cat's mouth which is hinged swings open and closes. The bank is painted with a green base embellished with red and gold figures, the cat is yellow with

black striping, and the mouse, of course, is gray. The specimen shown is original throughout and the paint is in exceptionally nice condition for this particular bank.

Another unusual point of interest in connection with the bank is its very definite foreign looking appearance. There are strange Hindu-like figures on each end of the base and the cat itself is a wild-eyed eerie-looking figure. It was at first believed to be of foreign manufacture until the patent papers turned up identifying the bank with Mr. Bailey.

In collecting mechanical banks there have been many unusual and interesting circumstances surrounding the obtaining of individual specimens. The story in back of the eventual retaining of the Springing Cat Bank now in the writer's collection is one of the more intriguing of these stories.

Some years ago in New England in the early 30's the first specimen of the Springing Cat that had turned up was found in Worcester, Mass. Of course this was in the early stages of collecting banks as far as the writer goes and it offered great possibilities from an advantageous trading standpoint. It is, of course, never a good policy to trade any rare item: however, in the formative stages of a collection hobby there are certain advantages to it from the angle of adding a number of specimens at one time. Later on, however, as the collection progresses the collector is very apt to have remorse and regret due to the fact that he let some rare item go which he didn't realize at the time might never be replaced. Certainly the Springing Cat Bank in the case of the writer has been the exception that would prove this rule.

As mentioned above, he traded the first one to a well-known collector and at the time it was a very advantageous trade so far as adding a number of specimens to the collection. Not more than a year passed, when he turned up the second one of the banks in an antique shop in Boston, Mass. At the time this also seemed a little too odd an item to keep and a trade was made with the late James C. Jones, a well-known collector. A number of intervening years and an increasing degree of remorse and regret ensued before the opportunity arose a few years back to obtain again a Springing Cat Bank. This time the bank was purchased from A.L. Cooper of Dayton, Ohio.

When this specimen was obtained he decided that the third time was a charm and this one definitely would not leave his collection. However, fate with its peculiar workings, decreed that at this moment the opportunity of a lifetime should arise to obtain a Freedman's Bank, which meant trading the Springing Cat before it even had a chance to be placed in with his other banks. It might be pointed out that the writer had long ago definitely made up his mind that he would one way or another obtain the first Freedman's or Clown, Harlequin and Columbine that was offered to him even if it was necessary to dispose of some other rare bank. It was with very good fortune, not too long after getting the Freedman's Bank, that J.P. Hurd of Beverly, Mass., obtained a Springing Cat Bank from an original owner for the writer, and this is the one pictured.

There are five or possibly six of these banks known to exist in collections and it is an unusual circumstance to have owned four of them. Since the writer has been fortunate enough to have acquired the top banks that he has always wanted, it is safe to assume now that the Springing Cat Bank shown is a permanent fixture in the collection.

In closing, the writer might suggest that it isn't usually advisable to trade rare items from a collection even in the early stages. After all, the real value and greatest pleasure lies in the rarities, not in the quantity or number of items in the collection. Here again the collector must judge for himself.

Circus Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1952

We have reached the point in our listing where the traditionally unlucky number thirteen comes up. Certainly any collector who has in his collection our choice to occupy the 13th position will be considered lucky in possessing the Circus Bank. It is not only quite rare but extremely desirable from an action and subject standpoint with its appealing inference to a circus.

The bank was patented September 18, 1889 by Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams and manufactured by the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo, N.Y. This concern was one of the more active manufacturers of mechanical banks in the period of their popularity. They used colored advertising cards to help sell their banks and these cards are quite valuable today. The banks such as Trick Pony, Picture Gallery, Speaking Dog, Circus, and others were pictured on one side and the other side contained a description of the individual bank with its operation principle and the company name. The J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., was also a prolific user of these advertising cards in both color and plain, along with their fine catalogs containing interesting pictures of many of the banks they manufactured.

The collecting of advertising material pertaining to mechanical banks is a hobby in itself and offers an interesting but scarce field. This consists, of course, along with the advertising cards and manufacturer's catalogs, of catalogs issued by department stores, mail order houses, toy concerns, hardware companies, and even fireworks concerns. Also along with the advertising materials are the patent papers on various of the patented banks. These offer a wealth of information from a background standpoint.

The Circus Bank pictured is in practically mint condition as to paint and entirely original with no repairs. It has the original crank to operate the bank and this is often missing as it is loosely fastened to the operating shaft. The bank operates as follows: The cart is placed to the rear of the bank beside the box-like container by turning the crank, A coin is then set on the raised platform as shown and the crank is turned, the pony bucks up and down and the cart moves around the circle as the wheels on the cart revolve. Just as the clown reaches the point where the coin is on the platform he raises his left arm and pushes the coin off into the slot with his hand.

The bank is painted in bright colors, the base red and yellow with gold lettering, and the clown and pony are realistically colored with the clown wearing a bright yellow and red striped costume.

The specimen shown was obtained some years ago from Thomas W. Richardson of Washington, Pa. It has always been of interest to the writer that Mr. Richardson had this bank locked up in a chest of drawers in the front of his shop. The apprehensive anticipation waiting for him to get the chest unlocked to see if it was the real Circus Bank will never be forgotten. It might be well to point out that many dealers erroneously call the Clown on Globe the Circus Bank and the writer had numerous false alarms before finally obtaining the proper one.

It was through sheerest chance that the bank didn't land on a dump heap and it was actually in with some rubbish to be thrown out. It seems that a wealthy family in Washington, Pa., were disposing of various possessions after the death of the owner. Mr. Richardson left a large basket at the home each day for things they were going to throw in the rubbish. The bank showed up among these things and if it hadn't been for Mr. Richardson it would have wound up in the junk pile. It obviously had been stored away for years untouched with the exception of when it had originally been played with by some child for a limited length of time. This is apparent due to the excellent all around condition of the bank.

The writer is not certain of the exact number of Circus Banks that exist in collections but he is sure that the number is very limited. In any event it is one of the most attractive and desirable banks to have in a collection.

Initiating Bank First Degree

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1952

According to tradition there was a time when secret societies and fraternal organizations used a goat in their initiation proceedings. Typical of these times, with its obvious reference and name, is the Initiating Bank First Degree, our choice to occupy fourteenth position in the numerical classification of mechanical banks.

The Initiating Bank was patented in 1880 by George W. Eddy of Plainville, Conn., and assigned to Mechanical Novelty Works of New Britain, Conn. Mr. Eddy was one of the owners of this company and they made a number of mechanical banks during this period of the 1880's. One of the banks they manufactured was a companion to the Initiating Bank First Degree and it was called the Initiating Bank Second Degree. This is known today as the Goat, Frog, and Old Man Bank which is merely a more descriptive title as there is no name inscribed on this bank.

It might be well to point out that many of the banks have been given names that are descriptive of the bank itself. The reason for this, of course, is to enable dealers and others who aren't too familiar with mechanical banks to identify them more easily. This has been necessary to a large degree due to the fact that many of the banks have no name inscribed on them. For example, it would be difficult to identify Paddy And His Pig as the Shamrock Bank which is the name it originally went by when sold in stores. The same applies to French's Automatic Bank now called Boy On Trapeze and Baby Mine, now called Mammy and Child, and others. Even some banks with names inscribed on them have been given another name to better identify them. As example, the Motor Bank now commonly called the Trolley Car Bank. It does seem best, however, to leave well enough alone and use the name that is inscribed on the bank.

The Initiating Bank shown was adopted some years ago from Bob Spar of Canton, N.Y. The bottom base plate was missing and there was a crack across the top where the goat is fastened to the bank. A base plate was supplied through the help of the late James C. Jones. The crack was repaired by means of welding using wet asbestos to protect the paint. This method of repair carefully done left no sign of the break and preserved the original paint. A minimum amount of touching up with matched paint right at the former crack finished the job.

The bank operates as follows: The goat is pushed down into the position shown in the picture and the frog automatically sits down on the base at the same time. A coin is placed on the plate held in the darky's outstretched hands, the lever located in front of the goat is pressed, and he lunges forward butting the stooped-over figure in the rear. The figure falls forward and the frog raises on his hind legs to receive the coin in his mouth. The action is well timed, and the coin goes through the frog's body into the base of the bank.

The name The Initiating Bank First Degree is inscribed on each side of the bank along the beveled edge of the base. On one end of the base is the word "Eddy's" and on the other end is the word "Patent". It is painted in attractive colors, the darky with a red scarf around a white collar and yellow trousers, the goat and frog in a brownish lacquer, with the frog having a red and yellow mouth and green head. The base is green on top with brown lacquer sides and red trim on the beveled bottom edge.

The Initiating Bank is one of the largest of the mechanical banks in overall size. Because of its action it has a special appeal to the men who collect banks. Also, it is one of the more difficult banks to find in good condition due to the operation and method whereby the figures are attached. A little rough treatment by a child and these would break off very easily.

The exact number of the Initiating Banks that have survived and exist in collections today is not certain. However, it is a limited number and any collector that does not already have one will rate it among the top to obtain for his collection.

A point of interest is that the figure of the so-called frog is actually a toad, however, its mouth is painted like that of a frog.

Motor Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1952

Mechanical banks, with only about ten percent of their total number being of foreign manufacture, are definitely Americana. Their wide subject matter in the period of their manufacture recalls nostalgic thoughts of the past to many. To those who are younger, they offer an insight into an interesting period of our history. The Motor Bank is a typical example of this as it is a fairly accurate replica of the old trolley cars. Its unique action, entirely different than any of the other banks, plus its rarity and desirability rank it in the 15th position in our numerical listing.

The Motor Bank was patented in 1889 by A.C. Rex and manufactured by Alfred C. Rex and Company of Frankford, Pa. This company was originally called Kyser and Rex and continued under this name until 1884. Their line of mechanical banks made under both names of the company was an important one and they were a definite factor in this field.

The Motor Bank has also been attributed to J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. It seems they acquired the patent rights to the bank, but whether or not they ever actually produced any of the motor banks is not definitely known.

The specimen pictured, which is original with no repairs, and in nice paint condition, was obtained some years ago with the help of Dr. Arthur E Corby, well known collector of New York City.

The operation of the Motor Bank and a general description of the mechanism is definitely in order in the case of this unique bank. To operate, the bank is first wound up by a key inserted on the end of a rod protruding from one end underneath the platform. The bank is then set on a flat surface and a coin is inserted and pushed into the slot located on the roof of the car. The coin trips the mechanism and the bank automatically goes forward as a bell rings inside the car.

The center-raised section of the roof is the lock-on coin trap. This is opened with a key to remove the coins. A lever on one end of the platforms disengages the gears so the bank can be played with as a regular push or pull toy. This, of course, contributes to its rarity as these banks were probably played with in and out of doors like a regular wheel toy. Consequently, the possibility of breakage was far greater in the case of the Motor Bank than with most any of the other mechanical banks.

The spring that operates the bank is wound on the rod located underneath the floor of the car between the four wheels. This rod has a gear on the end that meshes with the gear on one of the set of wheels. A ratchet arrangement inside rings the bell as the wheels revolve.

The bank is painted in attractive colors, with a red roof and yellow and green body. The platforms are red, as well as the lettering of the name. The wheels are black. The number 125 appears under the windows on each side and this apparently has no significance other than to represent the number of the car.

A desirable feature, of course, is the fact that the use of a coin is necessary to cause the bank to operate. This same feature, that is, the insertion and pushing in of the coin itself causing the action

to take place by moving an inside lever, exists in a limited group of the mechanical banks. The banks in this group, along with the Motor Bank, are Panorama, Zoo Bank, Mamma Katzenjammer, Pelican, Rabbit In Cabbage, Owl (Slot In Book), Owl (Slot In Head), North Pole Bank, Bill E. Grin, Schley Bottling Up Cervera Bank, Moody and Sankey, Turtle, Bear Standing (Slot In Chest), Bowling Alley, Camera Bank, Weeden's Plantation, and Ding Dong Bell Bank.

There are other banks whereby a coin is necessary to cause the action to take place. In this group the weight of the coin itself operates the bank, or in some cases trips the lever to start the mechanism. These will be dealt with later on in another article.

To the best of the writer's knowledge there are four or possibly five of the Motor Banks in private collections.

It might be well to note that this bank is often referred to as the Trolley Car Bank.

Professor Pug Frog's Great Bicycle Feat

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1953

One of the more intriguing aspects of mechanical banks is the ingenious method of operation employed on certain of the banks whereby the coin is deposited mechanically while taking part in the action. Probably the outstanding example of this is Professor Pug Frogs Great Bicycle Feat. This feature, plus its extremely attractive appearance and desirability, rank it in the sixteenth position in our listing.

Other than the top few banks, there are no two specimens more desirable to have in a collection than Professor Pug Frog and The Girl Skipping Rope. This seems to have become a tradition in the lore of mechanical bank collecting, and deservedly so. Pug Frog, from a rarity standpoint, was apparently manufactured in fairly large quantities and a number of examples have survived through the years so it is not an extremely rare bank. It was very easily broken, however, due to its method of operation and finding one in good paint condition with no repairs is rather difficult.

Apparently the bank was never patented as so far no papers have turned up and there are no markings or dates any place on the bank. However, it's definitely known the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut, manufactured Professor Pug Frog and various features indicate that the designing work was done by Charles A. Bailey. The writer has in his possession an early Stevens catalog which features the bank on the cover. Judging from the contents of this catalog it dates in the late 1880's or early 1890's.

The specimen pictured is original throughout with no repairs and in nice paint condition with enough wear to indicate it was in a child's possession.

Before describing the operation of the bank, there is a story of interest surrounding the placing of the coin on the bank so that it operates properly. Some years ago in the early collecting days it was generally taken for granted that the coin was placed in the mouth of the frog and it was supposed to drop from there into the basket held by the clown. This not only didn't work but a number of banks were damaged this way. It was then thought, of course, that it was a poorly designed bank and certainly didn't operate efficiently. The writer happened to be influential in discovering the fact that the coin should be placed over the rear wheel of the bicycle. When placed there the bank operated properly.

In operating this bank the crank located in the center of the large front wheel is given a few turns to wind up the spring. Then a coin is placed as described above and the protruding lever by the small rear wheel is pushed. Professor Pug Frog rides his bicycle in a complete circle fast as a wink

returning to the original position. During the action the coin is thrown into the basket and the book held by the singing Mother Goose, on the right end of the bank, is pushed into her face causing her tongue to wag about. There is a clever double catch on the operating lever that always stops Pug Frog after one complete trip of the circular ride.

The bank is painted in bright attractive colors, the drapery in the center is white with red edging and the basket yellow. The figures are in red, blue and yellow costume and, of course, Pug Frog is green with a yellow throat and red mouth. The bicycle is aluminum color. The lettering of the name is painted in red and inscribed on the book are the words "Mother Goose Circus" painted in black.

Perhaps it might be well to explain what is meant by a coin being mechanically deposited while taking part in the action of the bank. In the case of Pug Frog the coin is thrown from the back of the bicycle into the basket when the bicycle revolves. Another example is Darktown Battery Bank where the pitcher throws the coin to the catcher. In both these banks the coin is part of the action and at the same time automatically deposited by the mechanism.

Bank Teller Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1953

The fact that a bank is extremely rare or even the only known specimen isn't the one governing factor that ranks one bank ahead of another. In placing the Bank Teller Bank in 17th position in our listing certainly rarity is quite a factor as it is probably the rarest bank covered so far in the articles. Of course it's a desirable bank, not from the standpoint of action, but due to the fact that it is so definitely a savings bank. The theme, of course, being that of a teller in a bank who receives and deposits your money for safe keeping.

The Bank Teller was patented August 1, 1876 by Mr. Arthur C. Gould of Brookline, Massachusetts, and probably made by the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut. The patent papers call it the "Androidal or Automatic Cashier." Whether or not this name or some other name was used when the bank was originally sold is not known. To the best of the writer's knowledge there have been no catalogs or other advertising material turned up as yet listing or picturing the bank. Collectors have referred to the bank as "The Tall Teller", "Tall Man In Frock Coat Behind Three-Sided Grill," and "Preacher In The Pulpit". However, Bank Teller Bank seems to be a more appropriate name for obvious reasons. Also, there actually is a Preacher In The Pulpit Bank and it is sometimes confused with the Bank Teller.

Before describing the operation of the bank a point of interest is the fact that the weight of the coin itself causes the action to take place. This is also the case in a number of other banks, namely Boy On Trapeze, Halls Excelsior, Tammany, Halls Lilliput, the patent model Halls Yankee-Notion Bank, Bow-ery Bank, Circus Ticket Collector, Clown On Bar, Dog Tray, Guessing Bank, Jumbo, National Savings Bank, Peg Leg Beggar, Preacher In The Pulpit, Registering Dime Savings Bank, and Tabby Bank. Also in this category are the Dapper Dan and Horse Race. However, in both these banks the weight of the coin trips a lever that starts the operation.

Mr. John Hall who was one of the early bank designers seems to have liked the idea that the weight of the coin would cause the action to take place. This is obvious, of course, by the action of various of the banks that he designed and some of which bear his name. He continually applied for patents protecting this feature and any possible variations. The Halls Lilliput Bank is a typical example with the many patents issued covering minor changes. His banks were manufactured by the J. and E. Stevens Company.

The Bank Teller Bank pictured was obtained from Erwin H. Gold of Hollywood, California and is in excellent condition. It operates as follows: A coin is placed in the extended left hand, he lowers his arm and the coin is deposited in the bank. At the same time he nods his head forward in a polite gesture of thanks. Of course his arm returns to the original position automatically, ready for another coin.

The bank is made of cast iron with the exception of the left arm which is made in two sections of a metal stamping. It is in excellent condition with no repairs. The paint is in exceptionally good condition for a bank with such an early date of manufacture. The grillwork is black with gold trimmings and the name "Bank" is also gold. The frock coat is black with gray trousers and the face and hands are naturally painted. Unlike most of the banks with either the conventional round coin trap or lock with key, this bank has a section of the grill by the feet of the figure which swings out to remove the coins. The bank itself is dated 1876 and this appears in front of the figure on the counter.

So far there are two of these banks known to exist in private collections. There have been rumors of another one and possibly two more, but so far nothing has come to light to substantiate these rumors.

Old Woman in the Shoe Bank **by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1953**

An old favorite nursery rhyme that whisks one back to their childhood is fondly brought to mind as we list the Old Woman In The Shoe Bank as No. 18 in our numerical classification. It is quite a rare bank with a more or less unusual background and certainly has appeal from a subject matter standpoint. There is not a great deal of action to this bank, however, this is more than compensated for by its other very desirable features.

The bank was designed by William S. Reed of Leominster, Massachusetts. He was granted a design patent June 5, 1883 and a regular patent on November 27, 1883. The original patent papers which the writer is fortunate enough to possess are quite interesting as they picture the bank on wheels with a full figure of the woman at the top of the shoe. The rear wheels were originally intended to move the left arm up and down. It might be well to note that in many cases the banks when actually made were at variance with the patent papers. Of course this is a further interesting phase in the study of the background connected with collecting mechanical banks.

It is pretty well established that Mr. Reed had his banks cast by a foundry located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It is not certain that they were made in any large quantity and production was probably on a limited scale.

The writer was fortunate some years ago in talking with Mrs. Reed, who at the time was 82 years old. She told the story of how Mr. Reed originally thought up the Old Woman In The Shoe while in church one Sunday morning. They were apparently a regular churchgoing couple and he was a little reticent and embarrassed about thinking up the plans for the bank while in church.

Mr. Reed also took out a design patent April 8, 1884 for a Puss and Boots Bank but this was apparently never manufactured. So far none have turned up. He is also credited with designing the Little Red Riding Hood Bank. The writer is not certain of this even though it logically follows through with his apparent nursery rhyme theme. There were no patent papers covering this bank in Mrs. Reed's possession and she made no mention of it at the time of the writer's visit.

The bank pictured is in exceptionally nice condition and is in the fine collection of Mr. L.C.

Hegarty. Naturally this is one of his prides, and deservedly so. It operates as follows: First the lever, located at the back of the shoe just above the heel, is pressed down. This lever, by the way, is in the shape of a child's foot. As the lever is pressed the woman raises her left arm holding the stick and the boy on the shoe rears back. The coin is placed on the boy's out-stretched arms and the lever released. The boy drops forward depositing the coin in the bank and the old woman lowers her arm as though swinging the stick at the boy.

The bank is painted in attractive colors. The shoe is black and the children coming out of the shoe in various places are in colors of red, blue and yellow. The old woman is painted in red and yellow apron with natural face and arm coloring. The stick is gold.

The coins are removed by a lock-type coin trap located under the heel of the boot. This trap was missing when the bank was originally found by a used car dealer located in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. He in turn had found the bank in an old foundry in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where it had sat on top of a desk in the office for years.

To the best of the writer's knowledge there are only two of these banks in private collections. One in Mr. Hegarty's and the other in the extensive large collection of Dr. Arthur E. Corby. It's a hard bank to find and a rare addition to any collection.

Girl in the Victorian Chair

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1953

One of the banks that was obviously made exclusively to appeal to little girls is our choice to occupy 19th position in our numerical classification of mechanical banks. The bank is called The Girl In The Victorian Chair and, while it is the least mechanical covered so far, it does have a quaint charm and appeal and is quite rare and hard to find, particularly in nice condition.

There is very little known about The Girl In The Victorian Chair, either as to when it was made, who designed the bank, or what company manufactured it. From certain characteristics it definitely resembles the work of Charles Bailey. Along with banks he also designed a bell-ringing pull toy called Christmas Morn. The original pattern of this toy was studied rather closely by the writer some years ago when it was in the possession of the late Norman E. Sherwood. There is a definite similarity between the girl on the toy and the girl on the bank. The facial work in particular looks like the work of Bailey. Unfortunately there are no patent dates, markings inside the castings, or anything else that would serve as a helpful clue to trace the bank to its origin.

The bank pictured is entirely original with no repairs and in practically mint condition. It was obtained from Mr. J.P. Hurd of Beverly, Mass.

The bank, as already mentioned, is not very spectacular as to its mechanical action, but it definitely is a mechanical bank and the action does take place in conjunction with the coin entering the bank. First a coin is placed at the top of the chair as shown, then a small lever in the back of the chair is moved. The coin drops in the bank and the dog held in the girl's lap moves toward her. When the lever is released the dog returns to its original position.

This is the first bank covered so far that has to be taken apart in order to remove the coins. This is done by removing the screw located under the lever in the back of the bank. This screw holds the two-part casting together. Also, it is in order to mention the dimensions of this bank as it is very tiny and one of the smallest of the mechanical banks. The overall height is exactly four inches. It is two and one-eighth inches wide, and two and one-eighth inches deep at the base of the chair. The

dog is one inch high.

The casting of the bank is very nicely done showing tassel or fringe-like indentations from the chair seat to the bottom. The back of the chair has lattice-like markings. It's a proportionate little bank and the girl and dog are also nicely made. As to color, the chair is lacquer bronze with gold highlights. The girl has blonde hair with blue eyes and natural color skin. The dress is painted blue and the dog is brown and black.

The bank has been called The Girl In The Victorian Chair by collectors mainly from a standpoint of identification. To the best of the writer's knowledge the original name the bank was sold under is not known as so far no catalogs or other advertising material have turned up showing the bank. It could have been called Girl And Dog Bank, or Girl In The Chair, or some other similar name. But the name it goes under is properly descriptive and a good long one for so small a bank.

The bank has a very definite charm and appeal as mentioned, and could very easily fit in a doll collection. It's interesting to note that banks are often found in other than bank collections. A collector of elephants will often have or want the various elephant banks, both mechanical and still. The writer knows of a Jonah And The Whale Bank in a collection of whaling items. Also, dog collectors have an interest for the various mechanical and still dog banks. This phase of mechanical banks even goes so far that the writer knows of another collector near Philadelphia, Pa., who is interested in items pertaining to frogs and has a number of the banks that have a frog or toad on them! This continues on down to personal interest and historical items and these phases will be dealt with in subsequent articles.

The collector who has The Girl In The Victorian Chair in his collection is quite fortunate. Those who don't have a rather scarce item to find. There are about ten of these banks known to exist in private collections.

Jonah and the Whale Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1953

An added point of interest in collecting mechanical banks is the historical aspect connected with certain of them. They form a special group unto themselves and these will be dealt with in subsequent articles as we are concerned with one in particular at this point that has both historical and biblical reference. This is Jonah And The Whale, No. 20 in our listing.

There has existed some degree of confusion about Jonah And The Whale as there are two types that were made. One is quite rare and the other is more or less common. Their operation is entirely different and appearance-wise they don't look anything alike. Then too, the more common type has the name Jonah And The Whale cast on the side in very large letters while the rarer type has no name inscribed on it. At present we are concerned with the rare specimen as shown, and the other type will be covered in a future article.

The bank shown is in the excellent collection of Andrew Emerine, one of the pioneer collectors of mechanical banks, and through his courtesy he furnished certain information about the bank.

Unfortunately, to date, there exists no information as to the origin of the bank. There are no markings or patent dates on the bank and no patent papers or catalogs have appeared describing or picturing it. It is even difficult to date the time or period of the bank's manufacture. Mr. Emerine obtained the bank from an antique dealer, Robert Beveridge of Albany, N.Y., in the middle 1930's. It was the first one to turn up at the time and, of course, created quite a sensation among the mechanical banking clan.

The bank shown is in mint condition in all respects and undoubtedly was never in a child's possession for any length of time. It operates as follows: A coin is placed in the small boat-shaped holder located by the whale's tail, then the lever, located midway on the base beside the whale, is pressed. The boat-shaped holder shoots forward and the coin drops through a slot into the square-shaped receptacle located under the whale. At the same time, the whale opens its large mouth and the head and shoulders of Jonah emerge from the whale face up. The whale also flips its tail up in the air during the action. To reset the bank a small knob-like lever located at the end of the tail is pulled back and the figure of Jonah goes back inside the whale.

The bank is painted in attractive colors. The top of the base in front of the whale is a replica of the seashore with stones, shells, and a turtle, all painted in natural colors. From there back, blue waves are shown. The whale is a true whale color with red eyes and light color underneath the jaws. Jonah's face is painted naturally and he has a black cloak. The sides and ends of the base are a dull red with gold trim.

The bank is a very rare and interesting item and difficult to find. Apparently a limited number were manufactured and it must not have sold too well originally. Perhaps the subject matter of Jonah coming out of the whale didn't appeal to the public but, of course, this makes it all the more interesting to the collector today. The opposite is true of the other Jonah And The Whale and it obviously had wide popular appeal in the period of being on the market.

It might be well to note that the rare Jonah And The Whale is often referred to as Jonah And The Whale On Pedestal and Jonah And The Whale-Jonah Emerges From Whale. So far there are only two of these banks known to exist in private collections.

Dentist Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1953

Certainly the thoughts surrounding a visit to a dentist are not particularly pleasant. However, there is a dentist in New York the writer always finds it a distinct pleasure to visit and he is Dr. Arthur E. Corby, and naturally the visits, in the case of the writer, evolve themselves around the fine collection of mechanical banks in his possession. Also, quite naturally, one of his outstanding favorites is the Dentist Bank which brings us to the 21st bank in our numerical classification of mechanical banks.

The bank, so far as accurate factual background, is pretty much an unknown quantity. Up to now it has been a matter of speculation as to the designer or manufacturer of the bank. There are no markings, patent dates or other types of identification on the bank. Also, no patent papers or catalogs have turned up which would help to identify the bank with a certain designer or manufacturer. The face of the colored patient in the chair is similar to that of the colored man driving the cart on the Bad Accident bank. This bank was made by the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut.

In both these banks the faces seem to bear a striking resemblance to that of the negro on the Football Bank which was designed and patented by Charles A. Bailey. He also designed several banks that stand on four legs, very much the same as the Dentist Bank. These were The Milking Cow, Football Bank, and the pattern Wishbone Bank. The above isn't really conclusive enough to place the bank as Stevens and designed by Bailey, however, until such time as more conclusive information does turn up it will serve as a possible clue to the origin of the bank. The date of the bank is in the 1880 to 1890 period.

The bank shown is in original condition with no repairs and the paint is practically mint. The writer has had several Dentist Banks over the period of years of collecting before obtaining the fine specimen above. Usually, due to operation of the bank, the arms of the colored figure in the chair were broken and thus missing when one was found. These can be replaced, of course, but while this doesn't affect the value of the bank greatly, it's always better to have one in original condition.

The bank operates as follows: A coin is placed in the left pocket of the dentist, the lever located at the feet of the figures is then pressed. The figure of the dentist falls backward against the gas bag and the coin drops from his pocket into the bag which is the coin container. In the dentist's right hand is a pair of extractors and in these is a large tooth. As the dentist falls backward the negro also falls over backward in the chair, throwing his arms up at the same time. The patient is fastened to the chair back and this tilts over with the figure. Both figures are then reset together as shown and the bank is ready to operate again. The coins are removed by removing a screw which holds the gas bag to the base of the bank.

The bank is painted in attractive realistic colors. The base is gray with gold legs and red footrest, the chair is maroon with gold trim and red cushion and back. The gas bag is brown. The dentist's coat is black, his trousers gray, and he has heavy black sideburns and mustache. The darky has gray trousers and a yellow shirt.

All in all, the Dentist Bank is a very attractive addition to any collection, and from an action standpoint it is particularly outstanding. It is hard to find in good condition and it's a favorite of many, dentist or not.

Red Riding Hood Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1953

An appropriate and logical source that contributed to the designing and manufacture of a number of mechanical banks were children's nursery rhymes and stories. The Old Woman In The Shoe Bank previously covered is typical of the nursery rhyme theme. Now as we list the 22nd bank in our numerical classification we come to a typical children's story theme, that of Little Red Riding Hood.

Actually there is very little known about the origin of the Red Riding Hood Bank, Background and facts are very much lacking as to where it was made, when it was made, the manufacturer, or the designer. It has been generally accepted that the bank was made and designed by William S. Reed of Leominster, Massachusetts, who designed the Old Woman In The Shoe Bank. However, as pointed out in the article covering the Old Woman In The Shoe, the writer met Mrs. Reed and during several conversations no mention was ever made of the Red Riding Hood Bank. The only markings on the bank itself appear on the bottom and these are the words "Pat. Apld. For."

One definite clue is the fact that the side of the bed is identical to the skirting on the chair of the Girl In The Victorian Chair. This, of course, would possibly lead us to Bailey and the Stevens Company. Until such time that more information turns up, it's a fair assumption that Red Riding Hood and the Girl In The Victorian Chair were made by the same concern.

The specimen shown is from the fine collection of Mr. Andrew Emerine who was about the first to find an example of this rare bank. It was purchased in Atlanta, Georgia, in the mid 1930's and Mr. Emerine regards the bank among his top favorites in his collection.

Condition-wise, the bank is fine with no repairs and good paint. There is an interesting amount of wear indicating the possession of a child, however with good treatment. The bank is painted

appropriately with Red Riding Hood having a red hat, red skirt, and white blouse with red sleeves. The grandmother's face is naturally painted and she wears a white bed cap. The wolf's head, under the face mask of the grandmother, is brown with red eyes. The pillow is white and the bed cover blue and red. The skirting is dull bronze with gold highlighting.

The size of the bank is of interest as it is rather small being 5½" long and 3¼" high. It operates as follows: The coin slot is at the top of the pillow and of course the coin is set in this slot, then the lever, located on the side of the bed below the grandmother's face, is pressed. The coin drops into the bank and the mask of the grandmother's face tilts forward exposing the wolf's head. At the same time Red Riding Hood's head tilts forward and back.

A point of interest is again in connection with occasional liberties taken by some of the bank designers. Red Riding Hood, as can be noted in the picture, has a hat on instead of the traditional hood. These occasional liberties, or possible mistakes, offer an interesting sidelight to the banks wherein they occur.

So far six of these banks have been found, and, of course, they are all in private collections.

Milking Cow Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1953

Country and farm scenes in Currier and Ives prints have become quite desirable and valuable over the period of years since their original dates of issue. Perhaps this appeal of country and farm life enters into our choosing the Milking Cow Bank as No. 23 in our numerical listing. This, plus its interesting action, rarity, and the fact that it's hard to find in original condition with no repairs or replaced parts, ranks it among the top banks.

The Milking Cow Bank is again one which is an unknown quantity as to the actual designer or manufacturer. There are, however, as is the case in a number of the banks, certain clues from the bank itself that indicate a particular designer and manufacturer. The legs supporting the base of the bank are identical to those on the pattern Wishbone Bank and this was definitely designed and made by Charles Bailey. Also, the facial work on the boy milking the cow is indicative of Bailey. Then too, Bailey liked to use flowers on his banks and these are in evidence on the Milking Cow. It is fairly accurate to attribute the bank to Bailey. Since most of his designs were then manufactured as the banks themselves by the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., we can be reasonably sure that Stevens made the bank. Its period of manufacture was in the mid 1880's.

The example pictured is in original condition with fine paint and no repairs or replaced parts. This excellent specimen was finally obtained by the writer after having owned several imperfect Milking Cow Banks in the early period of collecting. It was purchased some years ago from an antique dealer in Cambridge, Mass. When one of the banks turns up the fence is usually missing. This is due to the fact that it is fastened to the base in a very flimsy manner. Also the fence was subject to easy breakage when the bank was handled or played with. Then too the legs on the base were easily broken, and since the base itself is a rather thin casting it cracked readily. In later models the base casting was made heavier to strengthen the bank and overcome its tendency to crack.

The operation of the bank starts with its component parts in the positions shown in the picture. A coin is placed in the slot in the cow's back, then the large flower-shaped lever in front of the cow is pushed. This causes the cow to flip its tail in the air and kick its right hind leg. In so doing she tips the boy over backward and the milk pail held in the boy's movable arms is dumped into his

face. At the same time the coin drops into the cow. The flower is released, the boy set in position, and the bank is again ready to operate.

The bank is painted in attractive, appropriate colors. The base is green with some white daisies and the large flower lever is red. The legs of the base are gold and the fence white. The cow is reddish brown, such as a Jersey, with gold tipped horns. The boy has a red shirt and blue trousers and his yellow hat lies beside him.

The method of removing the coins from the Milking Cow Bank is of interest as it is necessary to remove the cow from the base and then take the cow apart. Frankly speaking it is poorly designed from the standpoint of being strictly a savings bank. Of course the mechanical banks were primarily designed to amuse and entertain, to encourage saving and this bank certainly does that. However, it can well be imagined that many of these banks were broken trying to remove the coins, and on occasion intentionally dropped and broken to get them out. These points naturally contribute to its rarity today.

To sum it all up, the Milking Cow Bank is a nostalgic desirable item to have in a collection and offers a challenge to find in original condition throughout.

[A True Listing of Authentic American Factory-Made Mechanical Banks](#) by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1953

This is a true listing of authentic American factory-made mechanical or animated banks. Registering banks, as such, are not included in this listing as they are in a class by themselves. There are, however, four borderline banks included in the listing and they are the Pump and Bucket, Registering Dime Savings Bank, Safety Locomotive, and the Perfection Registering. The Pump and Bucket is a borderline case due to its pump handle operation. In the case of the Registering Dime Savings Bank the coin causes the clock hands to move automatically and register the amount, this action being similar to the National Savings Bank, The Safety Locomotive with its automatic removable stack is another borderline bank and it's questionable if it should be considered mechanical even though the writer has listed it. The same can be said for the Perfection Registering Bank with the figure of a girl pointing to the amount as deposited.

The foreign banks are listed separately as they do not have the value or desirability of American banks. Then comes the listing showing patterns, which, while they are mechanical banks, don't belong in with a listing of the group which were actually sold in stores to the public. The likelihood is that the pattern banks listed were never put on the market. There is a possibility in the case of the Called Out Bank that a few were made in cast iron, however, these could be recasts from original patterns.

The next group is titled "Uncertain" and this is just what it implies. The recast banks are next shown and then all the known fakes up to now are enumerated. Of course recast banks are fakes and have no value in a collection. They are listed separately from the fakes to help the collector. Recast banks are easily recognized provided the person has some amount of experience and knowledge of banks. However, some banks that are out and out fakes made to fool collectors are more difficult to recognize due to the fact they have been made from patterns. These fakes are accurately listed and have no value in a collection unless the collector wishes to fool himself.

Undoubtedly there will be those who will notice that banks such as Independence Hall, Globe, Lighthouse, Dog I Hear A Call, Pay Phone, and others just like them have been omitted. These are

not mechanical or animated banks and are usually listed and collected only to make a collection or list seem larger. They could possibly be in a so-called semi-mechanical class, but they more properly fit in with the large and endless group of still banks. This is not meant to imply that they don't have any value, only the fact they are not mechanical or animated banks. After all, among the most mechanical of all the banks are those that register the amount when a coin is deposited. However, these registering banks, as such, don't belong in the accepted grouping of the mechanical banks.

This list has no duplications of banks and varieties are not listed. As an example of a variety, there are several kinds of Tammany Banks; some with no name, some with Hall's Patent on one side of the chair, and others with Tammany Bank on both sides of the chair. These are all the same bank with the same figure and the same operation. Therefore, only one Tammany Bank is listed.

Nos. 56 and 57, the Gray Elephants, are banks not usually classified as mechanical, but they definitely are as their trunks move when the coin is inserted.

Nos. 60, 106, and 170 are banks that were made until about 1942. Manufacture of these was stopped because of the war. It is understood that the Hubley Manufacturing Company who made the banks are not going to manufacture them again. There are older models of the Elephant Howdah (Pull Tail) and Trick Dog (Solid Base). The older Elephants were painted gray instead of white and the Trick Dog in the older model has a six-part base as listed, No. 169.

The two Owl Banks, Nos. 125 and 126, operate differently and the same applies to Nos. 174 and 175, the Uncle Tom Banks.

Nos. 143 and 144, the Standing Rabbits, are listed individually as one is much larger than the other and the bases are different.

In the case of the Uncle Sam Bust, the writer has never seen a specimen which he considers to be original or authentic. Therefore, it is listed twice, under "Uncertain" and under "Recasts," but is not in the authentic group.

All Banks are cast iron unless otherwise noted.

1. Administration Building (Columbia Magic Savings Bank)
2. Afghanistan Bank
3. Always Did 'Spise A Mule
4. Always Did 'Spise A Mule (Jockey)
5. American Bank (Sewing Machine)
6. Artillery Bank
7. Atlas Bank
8. Bad Accident
9. Bank Of Education And Economy
10. Bank Teller Bank (Tall Teller Behind Three-Sided Grill Labeled "Bank")
11. Bear And Tree Stump
12. Bear Standing (Slot In Chest)
13. Bill E. Grin
14. Billy Goat Bank
15. Bird On Roof
16. Bismark Bank
17. Bow-ery Bank (Cast Iron Building, Wood Mechanism)
18. Bowling Alley Bank
19. Boy And Bull Dog
20. Boy On Trapeze (French's Automatic Bank)

21. Boy Scout Camp
22. Bread Winners Bank
23. Bucking Mule (Miniature)
24. Butting Buffalo
25. Butting Goat (Tree Stump)
26. Butting Ram (Man Thumbs Nose)
27. Bull Dog Bank (Coin On Nose)
28. Bull Dog Savings Bank
29. Bull Dog Standing (Coin On Tongue)
30. Calamity Bank
31. Camera Bank (Picture Pops Up)
32. Cat And Mouse Bank (Clock-like Cat Face)
33. Chief Big Moon (Indian Camp)
34. Chimpanzee Bank
35. Circus Bank
36. Circus Ticket Collector (Man And Barrel)
37. Clown Harlequin and Columbine
38. Clown On Bar (Tin Figure)
39. Clown On Globe
40. Colored Boys Stealing Watermelon
41. Confectionery Bank
42. Creedmore Bank
43. Cross-Legged Minstrel (Tin-Tips Hat)
44. Cupola Bank (Circular Building, Man In Cupola)
45. Dapper Dan
46. Darky And Watermelon
47. Darky In Cabin (Cabin Bank)
48. Darktown Battery (Baseball Bank)
49. Dentist Bank
50. Ding Dong Bell (Tin – Wind Up)
51. Dog On Turntable
52. Dog Tray Bank
53. Eagle and Eaglets
54. Elephant (Baby, Opens At X O’Clock. Lead or Pewter.)
55. Elephant (Black With Three Stars)
56. Elephant (Gray – Moves Trunk – Large)
57. Elephant (Gray – Moves Trunk – Small)
58. Elephant Howdah (Locked)
59. Elephant Howdah (Man Pops Out)
60. Elephant Howdah (Pull Tail)
61. Elephant (Three Clowns on Tub)
62. Fortune Teller Bank (Safe)
63. Freedman’s Bank (Wood, Metal and Cloth)
64. Frog On Arched Track (Tin)
65. Frog On Rock
66. Frog On Round Base
67. Frogs (Two – Kicks Coin In Other’s Mouth)
68. Gem Bank
69. Germania Exchange Bank
70. Giant Bank
71. Girl In Victorian Chair
72. Girl Skipping Rope (Jumping Rope Bank)

73. Goat, Frog and Old Man (Initiating Bank, Second Degree)
74. Guessing Bank
75. Halls Excelsior
76. Halls Lilliput
77. Hen And Chick
78. Hindu (Bust With Turban)
79. Hold The Fort
80. Home Bank
81. Home Bank (Tin)
82. Horse Race
83. Humpty Dumpty
84. Indian And Bear (Bear Hunt)
85. Initiating Bank First Degree
86. Jolly Nigger
87. Jonah And The Whale
88. Jonah And The Whale (Jonah Emerges From Whale's Mouth)
89. Jumbo (Baby Elephant On Wheels. Moves Head.)
90. Kick Inn Bank (Wood and Tin)
91. Leap Frog Bank
92. Lion Hunter
93. Lion And Two Monkeys
94. Little Jocko Musical Bank (Tin)
95. Magic Bank
96. Magician Bank
97. Mammy and Child (Baby Mine)
98. Mason Bank
99. Memorial Money Bank
100. Merry-Go-Round
101. Mikado Bank
102. Milking Cow
103. Mamma Katzenjammer
104. Monkey (Drops Coin In Stomach)
105. Monkey and Coconut
106. Monkey Bank
107. Moody And Sankey
108. Mosque
109. Motor Bank (Trolley Car Bank)
110. Mule Entering Barn (Dog Comes Out)
111. National Bank
112. National Savings Bank (Tells Fortune)
113. New Bank
114. New Creedmore Bank
115. North Pole Bank
116. Novelty Bank
117. Octagonal Fort Bank
118. Old Woman In The Shoe
119. Organ Bank (Boy And Girl)
120. Organ Bank (Cat and Dog)
121. Organ Bank (Monkey)
122. Organ Bank (Miniature)
123. Organ Grinder and Performing Bear
124. Owl (Turns Head)

125. Owl (Slot in Book)
126. Owl (Slot in Head)
127. Paddy And The Pig (Shamrock Bank)
128. Panorama Bank
129. Patronize The Blind Man And His Dog
130. Peg-Leg Beggar
131. Pelican (Man in Bill)
132. Perfection Registering Bank
133. Picture Gallery
134. Pig In High Chair
135. Pistol Bank
136. Preacher In The Pulpit
137. Presto Bank (Small Building)
138. Presto Savings Bank (Wood and Metal. Mouse on Roof.)
139. Professor Pug Frog And His Great Bicycle Feat
140. Pump And Bucket
141. Punch And Judy
142. Rabbit In Cabbage
143. Rabbit (Standing Large)
144. Rabbit (Standing Small)
145. Reclining Chinaman
146. Red Riding Hood
147. Registering Dime Savings Bank (Mechanical Clock)
148. Rival Bank
149. Roller Skating Bank
150. Rooster Crowing
151. Safety Locomotive
152. Santa Claus
153. Schley Bottling Up Cervera Bank
154. Shoot The Chute Bank
155. Snap It Bank (Small Eight-Sided Building)
156. Speaking Dog
157. Sportsman Bank (Fowler Shoots Bird)
158. Springing Cat (Cat And Mouse. Lead or Pewter.)
159. Squirrel And Tree Stump
160. Stump Speaker
161. Tabby Bank
162. Tammany Bank
163. Target Bank (Fort and Cannon)
164. Teddy And The Bear
165. Toad In Den (Tin)
166. Toad On Stump
167. Trapeze Bank (Two Men)
168. Tree Bank (Boy Robbing Bird's Nest)
169. Trick Dog (Six Part Base)
170. Trick Dog (Solid Base)
171. Turtle Bank
172. Uncle Remus
173. Uncle Sam
174. Uncle Tom
175. Uncle Tom (No Lapels)
176. U.S. Bank

- 177. U.S. and Spain Bank
- 178. Watch Dog Safe
- 179. Weeden's Plantation (Tin. Wind Up.)
- 180. William Tell
- 181. Winner Savings Bank (Tin)
- 182. Wireless Bank (Tin)
- 183. World's Fair Bank (Columbus and Indian)
- 184. Zoo Bank

FOREIGN BANKS — English and German:

- 1. British Lion (Tin)
- 2. Dinah
- 3. Elephant (Tin. Swallows Coin When Tail Is Pressed)
- 4. Football Bank
- 5. Frog And Snake (Tin)
- 6. Hoopla Bank
- 7. John Bull Bank
- 8. Jolly Nigger (Butterfly Tie)
- 9. Jolly Nigger (High Hat)
- 10. Little High Hat
- 11. Little Joe
- 12. Little Moe
- 13. Minstrel (Tin)
- 14. Monkey And Parrot (Tin)
- 15. Monkey With Tray (Tin)
- 16. Scotchman (Tin)
- 17. Signal Cabin (Tin)
- 18. Stollwerck Vending (Tin)
- 19. Thrifty Tom (Tin)
- 20. Wimbledon Bank

PATTERNS — Made of lead, bronze or brass:

- 1. Aunt Dina And The Fairy
- 2. Blacksmith
- 3. Called Out Bank
- 4. Halls Yankee Notion Bank
- 5. Help The Blind
- 6. Moon Face
- 7. Twin Bank
- 8. Wishbone Bank

UNCERTAIN — Not sure they are true banks or if authentic:

- 1. Alligator In Tin Trough
- 2. Baby Elephant Bank
- 3. Bull Tosses Boy In Well (Brass)
- 4. Chinaman In Boat Rat On Tray (Lead or Pewter)
- 5. Jack On Roof
- 6. Sambo

7. Safe (Top Springs Open)
8. Shoot That Hat
9. Tank Bank
10. Uncle Sam Bust
11. Woodpecker (Tin)

RECASTS — Banks that have been cast by using original specimens as patterns:

1. Bear And Tree Stump
2. Bear Standing (Slot in Chest)
3. Bill E. Grin
4. Bird On Roof
5. Bismark
6. Boy And Bull Dog
7. Bucking Goat
8. Bucking Mule With Rider
9. Bull Dog Standing
10. Elephant Locked Howdah
11. Gem Bank
12. Jolly Nigger (All Types)
13. Jonah And The Whale
14. Tabby Bank
15. Uncle Sam Bust

FAKES:

1. Banks that have been completely made to fool collectors.
Examples: Long May It Wave and Carnival.
2. Toys that have been altered and made into banks.
Example: Elephant On Wheels (Moves Trunk).
3. Toy parts or bank parts that have been assembled to make a mechanical bank. Examples: Ferris Wheel and Cat Chasing Mouse In Building.
4. Still banks altered to make them mechanical.

Examples: Bull With Movable Horns, Lost Dog, and Barrel With Movable Arms.

1. Barrel With Movable Arms
2. Bucking Goat With Rider
3. Bull And Bear (Cast Iron and Brass)
4. Bull With Movable Horns
5. Captain Kidd
6. Cat Chasing Mouse In Building
7. Clock With Pendulum
8. Elephant On Wheels (Moves Trunk)
9. Feed The Kitty
10. Ferris Wheel
11. Forty-Niner
12. Glutton
13. Jolly Nigger (Straw Hat)
14. Long May It Wave
15. Lost Dog

16. Metropolitan Bank
17. Presto Savings Bank (All fakes have metal building. This should be wood and metal.)
18. Squirrel (Lead)
19. Target Bank (Building)
20. Trick Donkey
21. Tricky Pig
22. Tricky Pig (Risqué)

Uncle Remus Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1953

The shape or form of a house, bank building, or a pig always comes to mind when anyone mentions a toy savings bank. So far in our classification of mechanical banks none of these have come into the group. As we reach No. 24, however, we closely approach a building form in that part of the Uncle Remus Bank which consists of a chicken coop into which the coins are deposited.

It is not definitely known who designed or manufactured the Uncle Remus Bank. There are no patent dates on the bank. However, the following is cast on the back of the chicken coop, "Uncle Remus Bank 136." There is a possibility that the bank was manufactured by Kyser & Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., who made the Lion And Monkey, Butting Buffalo, and others. Certain features of the bank itself would indicate their having produced it. However, it is also possible that the bank was manufactured by the Mechanical Novelty Works of New Britain, Conn., who made, among others, the Zoo Bank.

As to the actual designer, Patent No. 462150 dated October 27, 1891 covers the theme of a negro stealing chickens. This patent was issued to J. Murray of New York City. As pictured in these patent papers the negro moves forward with the coin in his right hand and deposits it in the chicken coop. At the same time a figure holding an umbrella moves from the left of the coop toward the negro and a dog moves from the right toward the negro. It's a well known fact that many liberties were taken from the time a bank was patented until it was actually put into the production stage. Transversely, many banks were manufactured exactly as patented. In any event, it is fairly reasonable to assume that Mr. Murray was the designer of the Uncle Remus Bank. So far there have been no other banks turn up with the stealing chickens theme or any others remotely similar to the patent of Mr. Murray.

The bank pictured is in good all around condition with no repairs or replaced parts. It was obtained by the writer some years ago through the help of the well known collector, Mr. Andrew Emerine.

The bank operates as follows: The figure of the policeman is pulled back to the position shown in the picture, a coin is then placed in the slot on the roof of the chicken coop, the head of the chicken, feeding in the yard, is then pressed. The policeman darts forward and around to the front swinging his club. At the same time the door of the chicken coop, with the figure of Uncle Remus thereon, slams shut. The coin automatically drops into the bank during the action. Coins are removed by means of a lock and key arrangement in the base.

The bank is painted in attractive colors. The policeman, of course, has a blue uniform with red belt and gold buttons. The chicken is bronze and gold. The base is green with yellow and red highlighting on the sides. The chicken coop is tan with a red roof and the steps are also tan. The fence is white and Uncle Remus has gray trousers, red jacket, and a yellow hat.

The manufacturing period of the bank is in the 1890's and during the time that mechanical

banks have become collector's items it has maintained a high degree of desirability and rarity. Its traditional basic down-to-earth theme and the action surrounding this make it highly desirable to the collector.

Confectionery Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1953

Mechanical or animated toy banks were primarily designed to encourage children saving money. The incentive of seeing the bank operate was meant to arouse a child's interest to save. As we reach No. 25 in our numerical listing we come to a bank that has the added incentive of giving something in return for the deposited coin. This is the Confectionery Bank which is also a forerunner of our present day vending machines.

The bank was designed and patented by R.M. Hunter of Philadelphia, Pa., under Patent No. 243048 dated June 14, 1881. It was manufactured by Kyser & Rex also of Philadelphia. This concern was quite active in the production of mechanical banks in the period of the 1890's when the banks were at their peak of popularity.

The bank pictured was one of the first rare banks obtained by the writer. This was in the early stage of collecting and goes back quite a few years. It was found quite unexpectedly in an old antique shop in Plainfield, N.J. The enthusiastic proprietor, an elderly woman, had just returned from an antiquing tour and it was only a matter of hours from the time she had placed the bank on a shelf that the writer stopped in. Needless to say the bank left with him.

It is in excellent original condition with no replaced parts or repairs. To operate the bank properly it is first necessary to place small foil wrapped chocolate pieces in an enclosed compartment provided in the back of the bank. Then a coin is placed in the slot on top of the counter. The lever in the front is pushed and the girl holding the tray turns to the left. As she turns, the compartment marked "Lozenge" opens and the chocolate piece pops out onto the tray. At the same time a bell rings and the coin drops automatically into the bank. When the lever is released the girl returns to her original position offering the candy to the depositor.

The bank is painted in appropriate colors. The curved front is red and blue with gold outlining. The date, Pat. June 1881, appears in a circle on the front and is painted in gold. The back section with the many labeled compartments is yellow and the various names such as lemon, vanilla, coconut, and the like are painted in red. The girl is dressed in red and the tray she holds is gold. The paint on the bank shown is in excellent original condition.

The obvious similarity of this bank to our present day vending machines is of interest. The bank, at the time of its manufacture, had quite an advantage over the others with its added feature of giving the child a reward for saving his money. However, he or she could pull a fast one now and then as it wasn't necessary to use a coin to operate the mechanism. Pressing the lever released the candy at any time and that's where the similarity to our present day vending machines ceases.

With the exception of the larger collections, there aren't too many of the Confectionery Banks in existence today and the collector without one has a rather tough assignment facing him.

The Toy Bank Maker

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1953

One of the very important aspects in the collecting of mechanical banks is the obtaining of factual background information as to their origin, design and manufacture. A very rare item in connection with the background of mechanical banks has just come into the writer's possession through the good help of Mr. C.E.H. Whitlock of New Haven, Connecticut.

This article is of great interest and importance as it describes one of the methods used in making original patterns and it also brings to light the name of a man who apparently had some degree of importance, along with Charles Bailey, in being a good model and pattern maker of various banks. The complete article quoted below appears in the 89th Year of Phinney's Calendar Or Western Almanac For The Year Of Our Lord 1886 by Lester Wheeler Heathcote School and distributed and published by Wm. T. Smith, Bookseller & Stationer, Utica, New York. The article appears in its entirety as follows:

"The Toy Bank Maker"

"The well-known ingenious toy trick banks are all made from models made by John Page, who works all day long in a low-ceilinged room in the top story of 722 Chestnut at his wax models and bronze chasings.

'The 'Creedmore' bank was the first I made,' said the bank maker on Saturday. 'That was followed by the kicking mule, the bull dog and others. I am now at work upon a more complicated toy bank, the first bronze casting has just come in. We are now chasing it and filing down all the rough edges, and making all the joints work easily. I first of all make a solid model of the figure in specially prepared wax. From this I take a plaster of paris mold in two halves. Then I make two hollow models of the figure in wax from these molds. The next thing is to separate from the complete models the parts which are intended to be movable. Before me I have the left fore-arm and hand of a monkey, holding up a piece of cocoanut shell, the thumb of the right hand, the lower jaw, the eyes and the tail, which, when the toy is complete, will act in conjunction with a spring on the inside. These parts being removed, I have to make a fresh model in wax of every part with an end or joint attached to them. They are then sent to the brass foundry to be cast in bronze. The whole figure has to be made complete and working in wax before it goes to the foundry. When they come back some of the pieces are very rough and need a great deal of filing and chasing to make them fit and move easily. You see, the model in bronze that I make is the foundation from which all the banks are eventually to be made, and unless my model works perfectly there will be no end of complaints when it goes eventually to the iron foundry, where the marketable toys are turned out. There are twenty pieces in this bank. A coin is placed between the thumb and fingers of a monkey's right hand. The thumb, you see, is kept in place by a spring strong enough to hold a coin the weight of half a dollar. When the tail is depressed the left hand raises the upper half of the cocoanut, the lower jaw falls down, the eyes go up, the right thumb is drawn back and releases the coin, which falls through a slit in the cocoanut into the mouth of the monkey and the bank.'

—Philadelphia Times."

A point of interest is the fact that James H. Bowen of Philadelphia patented all of the banks mentioned in the above article, the Creedmore, Kicking Mule, the Bull Dog, and the Monkey Bank as described. Evidently Page made the models and patterns of the banks for Bowen and these patterns were in turn sent to Stevens for the actual manufacture. Page undoubtedly made many other models and patterns in Philadelphia and probably for other than Bowen, possibly Kyser & Rex and others.

It might be well to point out that not all bank models were made by John Page, of course, as there were many other model makers. It also might be mentioned that many of the original models of banks were first carved in wood and from these wooden models, lead, bronze or brass patterns

were then cast and then the master patterns were made from these.

It is very difficult to find factual background pertaining to the manufacturers or designers of the mechanical banks. Of course old catalogs and patent papers are of great value. To the best of the writer's knowledge the above article is the first of its type that has turned up wherein an article was written about a particular bank model maker.

U.S. and Spain Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1954

Mechanical banks, as with other types of collectible items, can be grouped or classified into specialized divisions. One of these groups which is rather small in number is the cannon and fort type. Among these we come to No. 26 in our numerical classification, namely the U.S. And Spain Bank.

The group of banks which utilize a cannon in their action also fit in with the shooting type such as the Sportsman's Bank, Teddy And The Bear, and others. It's also well to mention that certain of the banks in the different groupings also can be placed in an overall historical group.

The U.S. And Spain Bank is a cannon type bank, of course, and is also historical in its connection with the Spanish-American War. It is not the rarest of the cannon type banks as the Octagonal Fort, for example, is somewhat rarer. However, it is much more desirable from all other standpoints, including action, appearance, and theme. And of course it is rare and hard to find.

The bank was patented July 12, 1898 by Charles Bailey and made by the Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. It was covered by a design patent which is not the usual case with the majority of the patented banks.

The specimen shown is in general good condition with a small piece broken from the base end where the firing hammer recedes into the base. It was obtained some years ago through the good help of Dr. Arthur E. Corby of New York City. The bank is painted in appropriate colors. The cannon has a black barrel and the base upon which it is mounted is gray with the lettering "U.S." in gold. The fort is unusual in that it has a natural stone appearance. This was achieved by the use of sand. The off-color white paint on the fort was either dipped in sand or sprinkled with it while still wet or tacky. The top flat surface of the fort is painted green to simulate grass. The Spanish ship has the lettering "Spain" in white, the hull is black and the mast and turret are tan and brown. All cannons on the Spanish ship are gold. The two men on the mast have yellow uniforms with red hats and the Spanish flag and the ocean are painted in natural colors.

The bank operates as follows: The coin is placed as pictured in front of the mast on the ship, then a wooden type shell is placed in the barrel of the cannon. The hammer on the cannon is then pulled down and the lever to fire the cannon appears at the side. When the lever is pressed the hammer shoots the shell forward making a direct hit on the mast knocking it over backward. This causes the coin to drop automatically into the bank. To repeat the action the mast is simply raised into position, and proceed as described. If more realistic action is desired, the cannon is made so that it will fire paper caps.

If you are collecting mechanical banks in the overall group, or the specialized subject group, or historical class, the U.S. And Spain Bank fits into all three and is a very desirable item in any one or all of them.

Rhode Island's Bank Collectors' Club

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1954

Probably one of the most exclusive collectors' organizations in the world is the Antique Bank Collectors' Club of Rhode Island. A feature story in the Providence Sunday Journal of January 3, by Robert L. Wheeler with pictures by John P. Callahan, tells of the club and the activities of its members.

According to author Wheeler the club has nine regular members. In order to obtain a membership one has to own a minimum of five mechanical banks of the vintage when thrift in children was encouraged by gifts of banks which performed tricks by placing pennies in the slots. Or one can have a membership if he owns a minimum of twenty-five "still" banks. The stills have no mechanical action, and were made in great varieties and numbers by yesteryear manufacturers. They are therefore more plentiful than the mechanical action banks.

The club holds four meetings a year. It was at a recent meeting that author Robert L. Wheeler obtained data on the collectors themselves and the objects of their avid hobby pursuit, whom we quote, in part:

"DeForest W. Abel, president of the Automobile Mutual Company of Providence, was host in his home at the recent meeting. Two other company presidents, Edwin M. Caldwell, Jr. (Caldwell Motors Company, West Warwick) and W.W. Yando (Braided Rugs and Specialties Company, Pawtucket); a man in the building materials business, Oliver I. Clark; an attorney, Edward T. Richards (Edwards & Angell), and a stock clerk at Central High School, Rudolph A. Salvatore.

"Also a banker, Frederick L. Macalister, assistant manager of the Slater branch of the Industrial Trust. Another banker, Rupert C. Thompson, president of the Union National Bank of Providence, couldn't make it. Neither could Donald B. Derby, president of the U.S. Finishing Company, Norwich, Conn., and the collectors' only out-of-state member. There are two honorary members, F.L. Ball of Cambridge, Mass., dean of dealers in mechanical banks, and Andrew Emerine, Fostoria, an internationally known collector.

"Lawyer Richards is president of the Antique Bank Collectors of Rhode Island and Stock Clerk Salvatore is secretary – treasurer. After talking mechanical banks for about so long the collectors lunched on chicken sandwiches and pumpkin pie and then went back and talked mechanical banks some more.

"This reporter mentioned the lighthouse bank he owned when he was a boy to one of the Collectors and the latter said yes, he had a chance to acquire one once, a lady who was using it for a table decoration offered it to him for free if he would rent her apartment. They couldn't come to terms.

"The history of mechanical toys goes back a long way. When you come right down to it, what was Friar Roger Bacon's talking skull but one? And of course there were the cathedral clock jacks of medieval times, the little figures that came out when the hours struck, and jerkily gestured. The Robot was with us long before the play R.U.R. gave him a name. But it remained for the New England Yankee to originate a type of toy that performed for a penny, presumably to inculcate habits of saving and giving you action for your money.

" 'Still' penny banks made their appearance fairly early in the history of the Republic. The first large penny pieces were issued by the U.S. Treasury in 1793, and before long there were penny

banks of wood and clay for the youngsters to stack the occasional copper. Some of them were made of glass. And sometimes the penny bank was just a gourd with a slit in it.

"In 1869, however, a certain John Hall, a citizen of Watertown, Mass., devised a penny bank that made saving fun. He invented the patented 'Hall's Excelsior Bank,' a rather simple affair, just a little cast-iron house with a bell and cupola. But when you pulled the bell, something interesting happened. Up flipped the roof of the cupola and up popped a monkey who accepted your penny—and down-popped. He would do this as many times as you could wring pennies from papa.

"Mr. Hall's ingenious incitement to thrift was an instant success and he promptly put it into production. Hundreds were manufactured and a new industry was born."

Butting Ram Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1954

A small group of the mechanical banks employ the use of a goat or ram in connection with the coin being deposited in the bank. Among these we come to No. 27 in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks, namely the Butting Ram Bank.

The subject bank is often called the Bucking Ram, Bucking Goat, and various other names. However, the figure on the bank is a ram, not a goat and also he butts the tree. There is no action of bucking. The best accepted name, therefore, is the Butting Ram. Often to further identify the bank the terminology 'Man Thumbs Nose' is added. This can be included or not as the individual chooses, however it is not necessary as there is no other mechanical bank to date that employs a ram butting a tree.

The bank was designed and patented by Mr. O.O. Storle, of Burlington, Wisconsin, under Patent No. 548,672 dated October 29, 1895. Apparently this is the only bank patented by Mr. Storle. To the best of the writer's knowledge the circumstances surrounding the place and name of the manufacturer is not known. The bank shown is in general good condition with no repairs and entirely original. It was obtained through the good help of Mr. E.L. Romey of Bluffton, Indiana.

It is painted in appropriate colors. The tree is an off-color brown and the base with its upright background is green. The boy's shoes, trousers and hair are black. His hat is yellow and his coat light green. The ram is off-color white with black horns. The opening in the tree stump is yellow. Inscribed on the back of the bank is the following: Pat. Oct. 29, 1895. This is in the form of handwritten printing rather than the usual type of printing or lettering.

The bank operates as follows: First a coin is placed in the position as shown in the picture, at the opening in the tree stump. The lever located by the tree is then pressed and the ram butts forward knocking the coin into the bank with his head. At the same time the boy's torso leans backward and he raises his right hand to his nose, thumbing his nose at the ram who had just missed him. The bank automatically resets itself for action upon releasing the lever.

There are several points of interest about this bank. One is that the writer has never seen a specimen in so-called mint paint condition. They all seem to have a varnish-type finish over the paint. The bank does not clean very well because of this. Another unusual feature is the fact that there is no way to properly remove the coins from the bank once they are deposited. The base bottom of the bank has a round type coin trap cast into the metal. However it is part of the base itself and cannot be removed. This is located under the tree stump and obviously it was meant to give the impression of being an actual operative coin trap. Another point is that the bank is riveted together so the only way coins can be removed is by shaking them out through the opening in the

tree stump.

The number of Butting Ram Banks in private collections so far is very limited. A contributing factor to its rarity and desirability to a collector, of course, is the subject theme of the bank. There are three banks that employ the action of a figure thumbing his nose and this is the second one covered so far in the articles. The other two are the Freedman's Bank and the Pelican.

Darky and Watermelon Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1954

Rarity in any collectible group of items always offers the individual collector of the items the ever present challenge to add to his collection. Certainly rarity is an item of consideration as we reach No. 28 in our numerical classification of mechanical banks, namely the Darky And Watermelon Bank.

The bank was designed and patented by Charles A. Bailey on June 26, 1888 under Patent No. 385,225. It was manufactured by the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. The writer has never seen this bank pictured in one of their catalogs, however, it is pictured in a Selchow and Richters Catalog of 1888-89 and it is called the "Foot Ball" Bank. It is advertised as a new item for that year and sold for \$8.50 per dozen. Each bank was packed in an individual wooden box as was the usual case with all the mechanical banks.

It might be well to point out the reason for calling this bank the Darky And Watermelon instead of the Football Bank as it was called in the above mentioned catalog. Often the Calamity Bank is called the Football Bank, then there is an English Bank with the name Football Bank imprinted on it. It is obviously better, descriptive-wise, to use Darky And Watermelon to avoid confusion. It's to be admitted that the Bad Accident is sometimes referred to as Darky With Watermelon. However, the name Bad Accident is imprinted on the bank and this should avoid any confusion. There is no name imprinted on the Darky And Watermelon and the individual can use his own judgment in the choice of names.

The bank pictured was obtained by an Eastern collector who apparently felt the price was high and in turn sold it to a collector in California. The bank at present is privately held and this particular specimen will probably never be put up for sale.

The bank is very characteristic of Bailey's tendency to use foliage and flowers. Also it stands on four feet which is the case in a number of his banks. It is painted in appropriate colors according to information obtained by the writer. The melon is green and the base is different shades of green, the ball is brown, and the darky is dressed in red, yellow and black clothes.

The bank operates as follows: First a coin is placed in the football, then the right leg of the darky is pulled back. A lever located in the back of the darky is then pressed and he kicks the football over onto the melon and the coin drops into the melon. The football is fastened to a lever, of course, and this is replaced into position as shown to repeat the action.

The Darky And Watermelon is quite a rare bank and naturally a desirable item to have in a collection. There are reported to be two of these banks existing in private collections.

Bull Dog Savings Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1954

The fascinating appeal that mechanical banks have for the bank collector is largely due to their animated action, ingenious mechanism, and the method whereby the coin is deposited in the bank. Certainly the Bull Dog Savings Bank, No. 29 in our numerical classification, is one of the outstanding mechanical banks from each of the above standpoints.

The bank was patented by Enoch R. Morrison of New York City, Aug. 13, 1878, and manufactured by Ives Blakeslee & Company of Bridgeport, Conn. It's interesting to note the patent papers covering the bank show only the figure of the dog. There is no figure of the man. In his place is a simple clamp-type coin holder. We can assume that the figure of the man was added as an afterthought to make the bank more interesting.

The bank shown is in fine all around condition with no repairs. It was obtained a number of years ago from an antique dealer in Providence, R.I. He in turn had purchased the bank in a home in Westerly, R.I., and it had been in the same family since its original purchase.

The bank is painted very simply in a dark brown type lacquer such as used on the Giant Bank and many of the toy pistols. The front base scroll work and parts of the dog and man are highlighted with gold paint.

The operation of the bank is as follows: It is first necessary to wind the spring mechanism with a key which is inserted in the hole shown in the picture. A coin is then pressed into the clamp holder held by the man. A hidden lever, located at the end of the bank just under the figure of the man, is then pressed. The bull dog immediately springs into the air and snaps his mouth open. As he reaches the coin he snaps his lower jaw closed with the coin inside his mouth and immediately returns to his original position on the base of the bank. The coin meantime goes through the hollow body of the dog and drops into the base of the bank. It is well to note that the dog has large teeth that go over the coin and pull it from the clamp held in the man's hands.

The Bull Dog Savings Bank was apparently one which attained no great degree of popularity during its period of manufacture. There are two factors involved. One is the fact that it was a very high priced item for a toy in the 1880's. It retailed at \$3.50. The other is that its subject theme didn't have much appeal to a parent buying a toy for their child. Apparently it was thought that the ferocious looking dog was biting the man. Actually the man is offering the dog a morsel of food as represented by the coin.

It's well to point out that many of the mechanical banks have clever mechanical action but the coin has no particular connection with the action other than being automatically deposited into the bank. Others have nice action in which the coin plays a part or even represents something other than the coin. An example of this latter type is the Darktown Battery wherein the coin represents a baseball thrown from the pitcher to the catcher. The Girl Skipping Rope is a good example of the former type. It has exceptionally fine action but the coin merely drops into the bank when the starting lever is pressed.

The Bull Dog Savings Bank is a fine addition to any collection and was a favorite of the late Walter P. Chrysler, an avid mechanical Bank Collector.

Rare Pottery Mechanical Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1954

The great majority of mechanical banks are made in cast iron. Then, of course, there are some in tin, wood and tin, and the rarest most desirable of all, the Freedman's Bank, which is a combination

of wood, metal and cloth.

A mechanical bank in pottery is a very unusual item and the one pictured is the only pottery mechanical bank the writer has ever come across.

There is a pottery alms box in the Metropolitan Museum of Art that is attributed to Han Dynasty 206 B.C. to 220 A.D. This is said to be Chinese origin and is a rectangular shaped chest supported by figure-like feet. There is a slot in the front, and on top a small figure of a bear somewhat broken. When a coin is deposited the bear bows forward. This piece, in the strictest sense, isn't necessarily a mechanical bank, but it certainly is an early forerunner of the type.

As to the item pictured, it is definitely a mechanical savings bank and nothing else. It is made of a brown type clay with the coloring in the glaze. The figure is apparently that of a monk and the cloak and hat are a peculiar off-color purple. The face and hands are off-white in color and his beard, moustache, eyes and hair are the same color as his cloak and hat. The book he is holding has a small piece of printed paper pasted on the reading surface. The printing is in German.

The bank is five and three fourths inches high and four inches wide at the shoulders. The coin slot is located in his chest just in back of the book. The head and neck are suspended on the shoulders by a small metal rod molded in the neck. The neck is made so it fits down inside the body and on the end of the neck there is a small flat metal piece and a round weight.

In operating the bank a coin is inserted in the slot and it drops on the flat metal piece causing the head to nod back and forth. This action continues for some time and is similar to that of the nodding head figures.

The bank was found by George Wisecarver of Pittsburgh on one of his periodical antiquing trips to Europe. Mr. Wisecarver located the bank through the antiquarian Dr. W.A. Luz of Berlin, Germany. Dr. Luz in turn purchased it in Munich. He feels that the origin of the bank is probably Bavarian and that the figure represents a beggar monk and is connected in this way with the symbol of Munich. Dr. Luz thinks it is a very rare item of its kind, and he dates the bank around 1800 to 1820.

In any event, the bank is certainly an unusual piece and quite different from the usual types of mechanical banks.

North Pole Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1954

A number of the mechanical banks were made to represent certain individuals, and in some cases, their connection with a historical event or an event of interest. The North Pole Bank, No. 30 in our numerical classification, commemorates the discovery of the North Pole and was made at the time of the Peary-Cook controversy. Either Peary or Cook could be identified with the bank and it was apparently made this way so it could be sold to individuals on either side of the controversy.

The North Pole Bank was patented by Charles A. Bailey of Cromwell, Conn., July 6, 1910, and manufactured by the J. and E. Stevens Company also of Cromwell. Apparently, it was felt at the time that this bank would be a good seller, but it certainly doesn't seem to have been the case as indicated by the relative few that have turned up so far. Of course it's to be admitted that mechanical banks had passed their peak of popularity by 1910 and many of these later banks are the hardest to find today.

The bank pictured is from the fine collection of Mr. L.C. Hegarty and was found in New England a few years ago. It is in perfect original condition with no repairs and the paint is excellent.

The lower part of the bank is painted in aluminum and the upper part is a bronze gold color. Inscribed on the upper part of the bank is the wording "North Pole Bank—Put Coin In Slot." The American flag is painted realistically with red and white stripes. As can be seen in the picture, the bank is decorated with a number of eskimos, seals, walrus, sleds, and the like. These are painted in gold tan and white.

From an operation standpoint, the bank is not particularly spectacular, but still the action is very appropriate and interesting. The picture shows the bank after the action has taken place. To operate, the flag is pushed down manually and it clicks into place inside the bank. In the left side of the bank (the viewer's right side) there is a coin slot. The coin is pushed into this slot and the flag pops up as shown. Coins are removed by the conventional type round Stevens' coin trap.

As mentioned at the beginning some banks are identified with an individual or are a personal caricature. In some cases this individual is also connected with a historical or special interest event. An example of this is the World's Fair Bank. This bank commemorates the World's Fair and also Columbus and the discovery of America. After the World's Fair it was made without the name "World's Fair" imprinted on it. Of course, it still represented Columbus and the discovery of America.

In the case of the North Pole Bank, it is an example of a lack of any personal identity with an individual, but it still represents a historical event and you could choose your own hero, Peary or Cook.

The North Pole Bank may have simple action but it is a difficult bank to find and a fine addition to any collection.

Octagonal Fort Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1954

Cannons and guns always have a certain fascination for men and boys. Therefore, it is quite natural that the mechanical bank designers and manufacturers would take advantage of this fact and produce a number of different banks using a cannon or gun. A number of the banks using guns are rather common, such as the Creedmore, William Tell, and the Indian and the Bear. Rare examples having a gun are the Sportsman's Bank and the Lion Hunter. The most common of the banks having a cannon is the Artillery Bank, and among the rarest having a cannon is the Octagonal Fort Bank, No. 31 in our numerical classification.

The bank shown is in excellent original condition with fine paint and no broken or missing parts. It was obtained recently through the good help of J.E. Nevil of Cincinnati, Ohio. Even though the bank is an unusually heavy casting it was apparently subject to easy breakage as any other specimens ever seen by the writer had some parts broken off. Also the paint was usually in bad shape.

The painting of the bank is a little unusual in that it was first painted entirely black and then the other colors applied. These other colors tend to flake and chip off the black base paint with any degree of rough handling. The colors are very attractive, the base being green and the water light green with white capped waves. The cannon is black with a red base and the fort is gray with brown top and bottom. The cannons protruding from the fort are black with red tipped ends.

The operation of the bank is as follows: A coin is inserted in the end of the cannon barrel, then the lever underneath the end of the barrel is pushed back and it clicks into a locked position. The firing knob at the top of the breach of the cannon is then pressed and the coin is fired into the fort.

Factual background is a real scarcity in the case of the Octagonal Fort Bank. The actual designer and manufacturer are not known. There are no patent papers covering the bank and there are no identifying marks on the bank itself that would be characteristic of any particular manufacturer or designer. There are, however, certain clues to its possible identity and time of manufacture.

In the first place, this bank is apparently a Civil War commemorative item. The fort is octagonal shaped and there is water represented on the bank between the fort and the cannon. This would lead to Fort Sumter and the firing of the first shot in the Civil War. The cannon is of the type that can be seen in Charleston, S.C., today.

Now to the possible source and time of manufacture of the bank. During the 1880's a toy salesman, Major Edward Brueninghausen, sold banks and toys which he had specially manufactured for his trade. He was a Civil War veteran and had entered the toy business around 1875. It's very possible that the Octagonal Fort, as well as a number of the other untraceable banks, were manufactured for and sold by Major Brueninghausen.

In any event, until such time that refutable evidence might turn up it's logical that the Octagonal Fort Bank represents Fort Sumter, was made in the period of 1880, and was sold by Brueninghausen.

Just what name the bank was originally sold under is not known. To the best of the writer's knowledge there have been no old catalogs or similar type of material found that pictured or described the bank. Octagonal Fort is a good descriptive name and easily identifies it from any of the other mechanical banks.

The number of Octagonal Fort Banks in private collections is quite limited and those possessing one are very fortunate.

Mechanical Banks **Originals and Recasts**

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1954

Mechanical banks for sometime now have continued steadily to increase in their popularity as a collector's item. It is quite natural that along with this continued increased popularity, fakes, reproductions or recasts, numbered replicas and the like would appear on the market in increasing quantities.

These fakes, reproductions, and the like have caused more and more concern among the collectors of mechanical banks and a great degree of concern as to the overall effect on the hobby itself.

First, why would an individual reproduce, recast, or fake a mechanical bank. The answer is obvious, to sell to collectors and dealers for a profit to himself. It's rather difficult to understand just why any person would go to all the trouble involved, but apparently some individuals will do so even though the market for the item is limited and couldn't be very profitable.

A definite controlling factor is the fact that the rarer banks are usually in the hands of bona fide collectors and therefore it's rather difficult for any unscrupulous individual to obtain one of these to make a recast. Up to now the recast banks have been of only the common variety such as the Jolly Nigger. It's rather easy to recognize the Jolly Nigger recast or any of the other recast banks even if the collector or dealer has had limited experience in collecting or buying and selling them.

Along with the fake and recast banks there has also been offered numbered reproductions of certain banks. Just what value these have is difficult to understand. Certainly no collector is fooling

anyone but himself if he knowingly has a reproduction item in his collection, and it can never take the place of the original.

There was a time some years ago where a collector who didn't have the Clown, Harlequin and Columbine Bank came up with the idea of recasting twelve of these banks so that a select group could obtain a replica for their respective collections. Needless to say, the idea fell through as no collector who was fortunate enough to have the Harlequin in his collection wanted any part of the scheme. There was absolutely nothing to be gained by the idea, and this follows through with any recast or reproduced mechanical bank.

There is an angle that is unique to mechanical bank collecting that should be considered. This concerns repair service. In some cases some of the repairers feel it is necessary to recast entire banks to enable them to have all different parts of individual specimens. This has its good and bad points. There have been cases almost to the extreme of starting with an original coin trap and building a bank around it! In any event, the Ferris Wheel and Captain Kidd are two examples of so-called mechanical banks that have up to now never been found as original mechanical banks. The ones that are around have all been altered and made mechanical.

There is no intent to cast reflection on the legitimate repair service offered to fix mechanical banks for those individuals who are unable to do so themselves. However, here again it's up to each person and his own good judgement. It bears repeating that when we try to fool others we usually only fool ourselves.

As a final word, bear in mind that any recast mechanical bank can be recognized as such after some experience in handling or collecting original specimens. It is necessary to use an original bank as a pattern and the recast is recognizable as such. New paint and new paint that has been antiqued is not difficult to distinguish from old paint and natural wear. Mint condition original specimens can be recognized for what they are as against recast items with new paint offered as originals.

Mechanical banks over a period of years have established a strong foot-hold in the collecting field and all indications are that this will remain so, despite attempts to pass off recast items.

Ding Dong Bell Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1954

The Ding Dong Bell Bank, No. 32 in our numerical classification, brings us to another type or group of mechanical banks. This group comprises the relatively few mechanical banks that were made of tin insofar as the main structure of the bank is concerned. Some others in the group are the Plantation Savings Bank, Dapper Dan, Toad In Den, Wireless, Home Bank, Presto, Jocko, Winner, and several of the foreign banks such as the Frog and Snake, and Monkey and Parrot.

The Ding Dong Bell was manufactured by the Weeden Manufacturing Company of New Bedford, Mass., in the period of 1885. The Weeden Company became noted for their manufacture of steam type toys, particularly stationary steam engines and steam trains. They also made a toy steam fire engine that actually pumped water. Their line of toys were very nicely made and the mechanical banks they manufactured were all of similar general design and operated by small clock works.

The bank shown is from the very fine collection of Leon Cameto. It is in excellent all around condition and Mr. Cameto obtained the bank through the good help of Mr. Elliott F. Bishop. It is

believed that the bank originally turned up in New Jersey.

The back of the bank is exactly the same as the Plantation Savings Bank with the lettered instructions, the door to remove coins, the lock key, and the wind-up key. On the side of the bank not shown in the picture is the stamped wording 'A (penny) Saved Is A (penny) Earned, Savings Bank.' Instead of the word 'penny' there is a one cent piece shown and then an Indian head penny. The other wording on the bank can be seen in the picture.

The various colors on the bank are attractive and are as follows: The top is an orange red color and the sides are blue with the lettering and coins in gold. The bottom is orange red and made of wood. The boy at the well has a red cap, tan coat, and blue trousers. The well is brown, the bucket orange, the cat is black. The boy with the bell has a white shirt, tan trousers, and red stockings. The bell is gold. The boy on the fence has a red blouse, black hat, white collar, and his pants leg is white. The sky is blue, the tree natural colors, and the fence is dark green. The lettering "Ding Dong Bell" on the front of the bank is in black.

The operation of the bank is as follows: First the mechanism is wound by the key on the back. Then a coin is inserted in the slot shown in the picture. Immediately the boy on the fence starts to wave his hat and the other boy begins waving the bell held in his hand. Meantime the boy at the well gradually pulls the cat out of the well and just before the mechanism stops he drops the cat back into the well. The action takes about 20 seconds and will operate about five times on one winding. Of course another coin must be used each time to start the action.

All in all the Ding Dong Bell is a very attractive good action mechanical bank to have in a collection. Any collector who has one is very fortunate since there are only four or possibly five of these banks known to be in private collections.

Bowling Alley Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1954

A very rare and much sought for mechanical bank occupies the 33rd position in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This is the Bowling Alley, a fragile and easily broken bank. Of course, this is probably the main factor contributing to its great rarity. Also it's very likely there were not too many of these banks manufactured.

The bank was patented by L. Kyser of Philadelphia, Pa., assignor to Kyser & Rex of the same city under Patent No. 222,058 dated November 25, 1879. It was manufactured, of course, by Kyser & Rex and the actual bank follows closely the design and mechanism as shown in the patent papers. Also, several old trade catalogs have turned up that picture and advertise the bank for sale.

The bank shown is from the very fine collection of the late F.W. Wieder of Berkeley, Calif. He was an avid collector of mechanical banks and his great interest was shared by Mrs. Wieder who is keeping the entire collection intact. No items from the collection are available, and naturally Mrs. Wieder has a sentimental attachment towards the banks since she and her husband had a mutual interest in them. She has graciously cooperated so that we may give proper recognition to a fine mechanical bank, the Bowling Alley.

The background of the bank is rather interesting. It was originally found about 1938 by James Whitfil a former antique dealer of Pittsburgh, Pa. It then found its way into the possession of a billiard hall proprietor in Washington, Pa., where it stayed for some years. A lot of effort was put forth by a number of collectors in trying to pry the bank loose and many trips were made to Washington, Pa., with no success. However, a few years ago Mr. Wieder finally became the

successful owner of the bank and it found a home in a fine collection.

The bank is in good paint condition which was revealed after a proper amount of cleaning. There is more than an average amount of original paint on it. The main body of the bank is basically green with some black striping. The grill work is a faded orange and the designs on the coin box are painted blue, yellow and green, and the top is brown. The figure of the bowler has black trousers, blue vest, and a white shirt.

The bank is pictured before and during the action. In operation the top of the coin box has three different size slots to take the various size coins. On inserting a coin in one of the slots a lever is engaged which causes the man to lean forward. The bowling ball rolls from his right hand and continues down the alley striking the pins and ringing the bell. The man returns to position automatically and when another ball is placed in his hand and the pins replaced it is again ready for action. As with some of the other mechanical banks, a nice feature is the fact that the coin causes the action to occur.

The bank is in original condition with no repairs. The bell, the pins, and the bowling balls were missing when Mr. Wieder obtained the bank, but this was to be expected since after all the pins and the balls were separate items and very easily lost. A bell of the same size as the original was obtained from a Creedmore bank.

The Bowling Alley offers a real challenge to the mechanical bank collectors and so far there is only one of these banks known to exist in any private collection.

Early Mechanical Inventions

by **F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1954**

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the locksmith was the artisan of one of the most elaborate and delicately wrought handicrafts. Besides framing keyholes with rich and beautifully designed ornamentation, he also showed great inventiveness in the finely wrought ironwork of gates, grilles, knobs, handles, and ornamentation of chests, In fact, iron seemed to have become as supple as wood from the way it was twisted and changed into something fragile and delicate with no trace of coarseness. By the middle of the nineteenth century those artists of ironwork had disappeared before the mechanization of these examples of artisanship, which were increasingly mass produced in cast iron, and therefore changed and usually simplified in design.

One effect of this was to bring about the new type of inexpensive mechanical lock especially desirable for use in safes and banks. By 1825 fireproof chests and burglar-proof locks were available for public use. The lock which Joseph Bramah invented in 1784 was the burglar-proof lock of its period, and it was widely known and employed up to the middle of the nineteenth century, In 1851 this lock was finally "picked" after a month's attempt by a salesman for the "Parautoptic lock" which no one was successful in picking that year. Also in 1851 Linus Yale introduced a bank lock which he named the "Infallible Bank Lock," or the "Magic Lock." He was not entirely satisfied with this example, and ended by developing for practical use the dial combination locks. In 1856 he submitted his "Magic Lock" for examination by the committee on science and arts of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, where it still may be seen with the autograph of its famous inventor.

Oliver Evans, who was primarily interested in the construction of an automatic mill, introduced the continuous belt of the production line with its various types of conveyors (belt, screw, and bucket), which he used for his automatic mill modeled in 1783, and finished constructing in 1785.

The principle of the screw and circular motion had been known to the Ancients since the Archimedean screw but had been used, as far as we know, for liquids only. Oliver Evans appears to have been the first to employ the system to convey solids also. He also invented a steam-dredging machine for cleaning the docks, and introduced a method for making ice mechanically. For his assistance in the advancement of industry Oliver Evans received little appreciative recognition and he died an embittered man.

Johann Georg Bodmer, a Swiss born in 1786 and who died in 1864, was another inventor who concentrated on the improvement of the conveyor's belt, and contrived new methods so that it could transport heavier material and for a greater variety of uses. He was an exceedingly versatile inventor, and besides his preoccupation with designing new patterns of conveyance within production, he worked on machine tools, spinning machines, water wheels, steam engines, locomotives, and a traveling crane.

In 1810 Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin (1759-1839) constructed what he called a "perpetual oven," as it had an endless belt of loose wire a yard wide which ran the length of the baking chamber and could be kept in motion without cessation.

In 1588 the Italian engineer Agostino Ramelli made use of the Archimedean Screw (three) for raising water. He was renowned for inventions of this type and also devised "a fine and artifice machine which is most useful and convenient to any person who takes delight in study. A man may read a great many books without moving from one place." This was true for the machine was a wheel with surfaces occurring at exact intervals like the planes of a water wheel, and books could be placed on these ledges and brought to the eye level.

As improvements in the implements for use in the field of agriculture became increasingly necessary, countless inventors worked unceasingly to improve machines for practical use.

Jethro Tull was one of those and in 1701 he produced the drill, and by 1716 the horse-drawn cultivator. The threshing machines appeared in 1732 and was improved for working use in 1786 by the Scot Andrew Meikle. The reaper, with its principle of continuous rotation, also appeared in the eighteenth century but it was not until 1834 that the workmanlike reaper, with which we are all familiar, was patented by McCormick and introduced to the public. By 1851 it had proved its unrivaled superiority to all others in the field.

Walter A. Wood of Hoosick Falls, New York, was another important constructor in the latter half of the nineteenth century of large agricultural machines which could use interchangeable parts.

Furniture was mechanized in ways to make it more comfortable and in 1831 we find the rocking chair was given more elasticity by inserting wagon springs between the rockers and the seat. By 1853 sitting chairs, of a type later used in offices, were improved by the placing of rockers mounted directly beneath the seat, and giving rotation and oscillation.

In the field of wearing apparel we find that as early as 1878 hat and clothing were cut by mass production, with stacks of exactly repeated pieces piled on the factory tables.

Electrical appliances such as irons, wringers, toasters, and fans were available by 1912, and the vacuum cleaner by 1917. By 1930 there were electric ranges, and in 1932 the electric refrigerator. And now the atomic field is still barely known to the public.

Recast Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1955

The number of recast mechanical banks has increased over a period of years, and particularly so in the last year or two. This is not an alarming situation, however, it is best to recognize it for what it is. No true collector wants recast banks in his collection and no legitimate dealer cares to sell them.

First, it is well to recognize the fact that some mechanical banks were being recast 15 to 20 years ago. These included the Jolly Nigger, Paddy and the Pig, Gem, and a number of others. These banks were recognizable as recasts at the time and they can still be recognized as such today. This also applies to recast banks that are being reproduced at the present time.

The terminology "recast" refers, of course, to a reproduction of a mechanical bank. A recast is one that is made by recasting all the parts from an original bank and then assembling the recast parts to make a reproduced bank. These recast banks have no value to the collector of mechanical banks and have no place in a collection of authentic originals. Unfortunately the recasts that are circulated around are being represented as old banks, unknowingly or not. No legitimate antique dealer or collector wants to have anything to do with recast banks, therefore, a certain amount of experience, caution, knowledge, helpful hints, and a list of the recast banks will be of help to both dealer and collector.

Experience, of course, can only be gained through actual experience itself. Familiarity with the banks, handling them, examining them carefully, and studying various characteristics leads to knowledge and experience. It's to be admitted that many dealers who occasionally get a mechanical bank don't have the necessary time to devote to making a study of mechanical banks. However, they can certainly protect themselves from handling recast mechanical banks by being certain of the source from which they obtain a bank. The new or inexperienced collector can do the same thing, be sure as far as possible of the source of the bank he is buying.

As to helpful hints, there are a number of these. For one thing recast banks do not fit together too well. The parts are slightly larger since they are cast from the bank itself not the original pattern. Sometimes a bank is recast and then half the original bank is assembled with half the recast parts. This is just another trick employed to make two banks from one and therefore supposedly more difficult to distinguish as reproductions.

Paint is another identifying feature. A number of the banks being recast today are painted with flat paints to give a dull finish in an effort to have them appear old. This can be identified as such. Some of the recasts are intentionally rusted and dirtied up to give an appearance of age. This also can be recognized as such.

It's well to remember too that in most cases of recast banks the finish of the cast iron itself is quite rough and heavy looking and this is not true of the old banks themselves. Most of the mechanical banks have very smooth castings both inside and out and are not inclined to be pebbly or rough.

Another point is to be extra cautious if a bank is represented as being repainted. Old paint and natural wear is a definite clue to an original authentic bank.

Following is a list of banks that are known to have been recast. Unfortunately there are a few of the rarer banks in the list. These have appeared more or less recently.

Bear And Tree Stump

Bear Standing

Bill E. Grin

Bird On Roof

Bismark Pig

Boy and Bull Dog
Bucking Mule
Bull Dog Standing
Butting Goat
Circus Ticket Collector
Elephant Locked Howdah
Gem Bank
Hindu
Jolly Nigger (All types)
Jonah and the Whale
Jumbo
Mamma Katzenjammer
Paddy and the Pig
Peg-Leg Beggar
Tabby Bank
Uncle Sam Bust
U.S. and Spain

To conclude, remember that many of the recasts are very poorly made and painted. As example, the Bill E. Grin as originally made and painted was entirely white with black and red markings. The recast is painted entirely different than this and in various different colors. The recast of the Hindu is a very rough poorly painted job and only a sad replica of the original. The Bismark Pig, of which only a few original authentic specimens exist, was recast some years ago. These recasts aren't even the same as the original. They operate differently and the tails are not alike. The fake Tricky Pig was also made from these recasts.

To repeat, no true collector or legitimate antique dealer has any desire to have or handle recast mechanical banks and it is with this thought in mind that the above information is passed along.

Hindu Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1955

The Hindu Bank, No. 35 in our numerical classification, brings us to another group of mechanical banks. This group is the head or bust type of mechanical bank and the Hindu is the first of its type to be written up in the articles.

The bust group is quite interesting and very different than the other mechanical banks. In this group are the Jolly Nigger, Bill E. Grin, Humpty Dumpty, Uncle Tom, and a number of the English banks including Aunt Dinah. Most of these banks roll their eyes and move their tongues. In addition some have an arm and hand extended to receive the coin. Also in most cases the coin enters the bank through the mouth.

The Hindu is the most desirable and one of the rarest of the bust group. It was patented January 24, 1882 under Patent No. 252,607 by Louis Kyser and Alfred C. Rex of Philadelphia, Pa. It was also manufactured by their concern, the Kyser & Rex Manufacturing Company. It's interesting to note that the bank varies a bit from the mechanism as covered by the patent papers, however, the general idea is about the same. Also of interest is the fact that the same patent papers were used to cover both types of the Uncle Tom Bank. These two banks are quite different as to mechanism in

that one sticks his tongue out to receive the coin while the eyes roll upward, and in the other the coin is placed on the tongue inside the mouth and the eyes roll downward. Then too, of course, one has coat lapels with the name 'Uncle' on one lapel and 'Tom' on the other.

Apparently the Hindu Bank was made by utilizing the pattern of the Uncle Tom Bank without coat lapels, the turban and fez being added to the pattern with other minor changes. We can safely assume that Uncle Tom was made before the Hindu as the sketch of the bank in the patent papers does not show any kind of hat or head gear.

The bank shown was recently obtained by the writer through the good help of a stamp collector, Mr. Chas. Pfahl of Akron, Ohio. He in turn had purchased it from an antique picker who had found the bank locally in a home.

The paint is in good condition for this particular bank even though, as can be seen in the picture, it is rather worn on the cheeks, nose and chin. Apparently this type of bank was subject to rough play and tossed into toy boxes and the like. It is not easily broken as is the case with many of the banks and, therefore, the paint got the worst of it. The bank is very colorful and painted as follows: The jacket is red with yellow striping and the tie is yellow with red dots. His face is white with red lips and tongue, and his turban blue with a yellow tassel. His eyes are gray with black pupils.

The specimen pictured is all original with the exception of the base plate. Fortunately this is not too important as the plate is practically the same as that on the Uncle Tom Bank and not too difficult to obtain. The same lock type coin trap with the initials 'U.T.' used on the Uncle Tom Bank is also used on the Hindu, and the writer had a spare original trap which was utilized.

The bank operates as follows: A coin is placed in the mouth to partially rest on the tongue. Then a lever in the back of the head is pressed down and the tongue swings back dropping the coin into the bank. The eyes meantime roll downward. Releasing the lever returns the eyes and tongue to their original position. Coins are removed by means of the key locking coin trap in the base plate.

The Hindu is a nice little mechanical bank and a fine addition to any collection. They don't turn up very often and trying to find one can be a real problem.

Patronize the Blind Man and His Dog

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1955

A sentimental bank with an appropriate object lesson is chosen to occupy the 34th position in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. The bank, Patronize The Blind Man And His Dog, is a well conceived idea with good action directly relating to the subject matter.

W.H. Lotz of Chicago, Illinois, was granted a patent on the bank February 19, 1878 under No. 200,402. The J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut manufactured the bank and they made a number of changes in the actual bank as compared to the patent pictures. The basic idea and mechanism was adhered to, however. It's very probable that Mr. Lotz had planned that the bank be made of tin judging from the patent papers and pictures. The Stevens Company undoubtedly made necessary changes in the design to better use cast iron in the manufacture. This was not an uncommon practice as various of the mechanical banks when manufactured were changed from their original patent. Manufacturing techniques, improved design, and better operation often were contributing factors in making changes from the original patent. However, it's interesting to note the large number of banks that adhered to their original patents when manufactured.

The bank shown was recently obtained by the writer through the good help of Mrs. Mary

Gerken of Allison Park, Pa. who has a fine collection of mechanical banks. It is in good condition and entirely original with the exception of the dog. This part was obtained from Mr. A. W. Pendergast who went to some trouble to see that the repair was done properly. The original dog had been broken from the top of the lever. The lever with its original paint was submerged in water and the dog was fastened to it by means of melting cast iron between the two parts. In this way the original paint on the lever was left intact.

The paint on the bank is very good and the colors are as follows: The brick part is red with white striping between the bricks. The base, the small peaked roof and the curved rail are blue. The dog is black with white spots and the man is dressed in brown trousers and a blue coat. He has a red bandage over his eyes. The background space for the lettering is a very light blue and the lettering itself is painted the same blue as the base.

It might be well at this point to stress the fact that not all specimens of any particular bank were necessarily painted the same. In some cases certain banks were painted exactly the same throughout the time of their manufacture and therefore all examples found are alike. However, there are some of the banks on which the manufacturers occasionally changed the color scheme. An example of this is Professor Pug Frog with red lettering on white drapery, and then white lettering on red drapery. The coloring on the individual banks is important and in some cases a helpful clue to the authenticity of the particular bank. Patronize The Blind Man is a bank that has been found in two different color combinations, but in both cases the brickwork has been red and white striping between.

The operation of Patronize The Blind Man is quite clever. First a coin is placed in the hands of the blind man as shown, then a lever in the back is pressed toward the small peaked roof building. This lever is fastened to the dog and causes him to move forward. As he reaches the coin he clamps it in his mouth, taking it from the blind man. The dog continues forward, drops the coin into the bank, and automatically returns to his original position. The dog's mouth is opened and closed by the movement of his tail as he travels over the curved track. The track has indentations that move the tail up and down at the proper time. Coins are removed by means of a small round trap in the base of the building. On the back of the building is inscribed the patent date, February 1878.

The number of Patronize The Blind Man And His Dog banks in various private collections is fairly limited. It is far from being an easy bank to find as any collector who doesn't have one knows.

Coasting Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1955

Year by year in the past decade mechanical banks have continued to more firmly establish themselves as a collector's item. As with Currier & Ives prints, stamps, guns, and other collectible items, it is always of great interest when a heretofore unknown specimen turns up or evidence is found of an unknown specimen.

As an interesting sideline to collecting mechanical banks the old catalogs that picture them are of great interest. Particularly so if one turns up picturing an unknown bank that to the best of the writer's knowledge has never been found.

William J. Stackhouse of Ellenville, N.Y., recently found the Ehrick's Fashion Quarterly, Volume X, No. 4, Winter 1884. This was issued by Ehrick Bros., 8th Ave. & 24th St., New York City. Pictured is page No. 426 of this catalog showing a number of mechanical banks, among them

the Coasting Bank. This bank is not known to be in any collection and the catalog offers us our first information about it.

Details of the bank and descriptive information is shown in the blown-up picture of the bank itself. It is somewhat similar to the Shoot The Chute Bank in its action. A check of patent papers did not reveal that the bank was patented which, of course, was true of a number of the mechanical banks.

The catalog was found in a second hand shop in Norwich, N.Y. Mr. Stackhouse happened on the scene at the right time as the place was going out of business and the catalog was about to be discarded along with some old magazines.

It is interesting to note that the rare Germania Exchange Bank is pictured as well as the rare Bismark Pig. This, of course, adds to both these banks as it definitely shows they were sold commercially as toy savings devices.

To sum up, we can safely assume that a Coasting bank was actually on the market and for sale to the public. It is very unlikely that Ehrick's would picture and advertise for sale a bank of this kind if they did not actually have it on hand or available.

Chinaman in Boat With Rat on Tray **by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1955**

An item of great intrigue and interesting conjecture is picked to occupy 36th position in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This is the Chinaman In Boat With Rat On Tray and the question as to its actually being a mechanical bank made as a children's saving device.

First let us clarify several things. Assuming it to be a recognized mechanical bank the Chinaman In Boat should be higher up in our numerical classification. That is to say it should not be down in the 36th position. It is a very rare interesting desirable item regardless of what it actually is and as a mechanical bank it is even more so. Then too since there have been only about four of the Chinaman In Boat banks turn up so far this has been the first opportunity for the writer to completely study and examine one thoroughly. Since the writer is now convinced in his opinion that it is a mechanical bank he will refer to it as such.

After considerable study and checking it is the writer's opinion that the Chinaman In Boat was made by Chas. A. Bailey of Cobalt Connecticut. There are various definite earmarks and characteristics of his work, including the wording, the fine detail, the odd theme, the moon-face on the prow, and the cat, and it is made of the same lead-like material as his Springing Cat Bank and the Baby Elephant Bank Opens at X O'Clock.

The bank pictured was obtained by the writer through the good help of Mrs. Agnes Koehn of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She found it in Minneapolis, Minn., in August of 1954. The lady who had the bank had found it in the home of her parents who lived near the Canadian Border. Her parents had passed away and in closing up the old home she came across the bank, and thinking it an interesting piece she decided to keep it and brought it back to Minneapolis with her.

The bank shown is in very fine condition particularly under the circumstances of the material of which it is made and the general fragile setup of the piece. It is painted attractively as follows: The Chinaman has a red jacket, yellow trousers, and he is holding a gold fan in his right hand. His queue and hair are black, his mouth red, and his face is painted a yellowish color. The bottom part of the boat is silver and the top section is a purple or raspberry color. The cat is black and the moon-face is yellow, red and silver, and the other side of the tray is gold with a silver rat on a silver

platter. The inside edges of the boat are painted blue and the deck is gold, silver and yellow.

There are no identifying dates or marks on the bank as is also the case with the Springing Cat. To the best of the writer's knowledge there are no patent papers covering the bank.

The wording on the bank is very interesting and a complete description is in order. On the opposite side of the cat perched on the prow is the wording 'I Am Seasick Oh Morrow,' on the flat top deck in back of the Chinaman are the words 'Hotel Yacht, Free Excursion, Music By The Band Forward When It Is Not Seasick.' Underneath the coin is a red half circle with 'Cash' inscribed on it. Along with this on the movable lid is the wording 'Cheap Labor, Hotel Dinner One Cent In Advance.' On the other side of the lid the printing reads 'Dinner Is Ready.'

In operating the bank the coin is placed as shown, then the Chinaman's queue is pressed and he raises his left forearm and flips the lid-like cover over. This causes the coin to be deposited in the hull of the boat and the lid flips on over showing a rat on the platter, a knife and fork are beside the platter. Releasing the queue causes the weight of the Chinaman's forearm to flip the cover over to its original position and the bank is again ready for operation.

The Chinaman In Boat has been accepted by some collectors as being a mechanical bank and others have thought differently. It has been said that it was a special novelty item for a dinner in St. Louis or New Orleans. If this were true it is logical to assume that it would have been made in a limited number and all would have been painted alike. This is not the case, however, as the Chinaman in Mr. Leon Cameto's collection is painted differently than the writer's. The boat has a green bottom and the top part is painted red and there are other differences in the paint. Unquestionably the paint is original on both the writer's and Mr. Cameto's bank.

It has also been said that the Chinaman In Boat being an anti-Chinese item could never have been intended as a child's toy much less a bank. Well the same could be said about the Germania Exchange with the goat holding a mug of beer. It could also be said about the Breadwinner's Bank which is obviously a labor-capitalist item, and who would ever think of the Baby Elephant Bank Opens At X O'Clock being made for a child as a toy bank with its theme of an elephant throwing a baby into an alligator's mouth. Of course it's to be admitted that these three banks have the name Bank imprinted on them, however, many of the banks designed by Bailey had no name on them at all. As example, the Shoot The Chute, Springing Cat, and a number of others.

Along the same line of reasoning are two toy animated cap pistols, "The Chinese Must Go" and "Shoot The Hat." These were made in the same period as the Chinaman In Boat with the same anti-Chinese theme and they are most certainly toy cap pistols made for children to use.

Another point in proof of the Chinaman being a bank is the fact that in Mr. Cameto's bank there is a tin slotted piece under the revolving tray that prevents the coins from being removed by shaking the bank when held upside down. There would certainly be no point in having this part inside if it were not intended to be a savings bank. Mr. Cameto has kindly furnished the writer with this part for his bank. There was evidence of this part having been in the writer's bank originally.

It might be well to explain the background of the anti-Chinese theme that was used in several of the mechanical banks and toy pistols. The mechanical banks are the Reclining Chinaman where he holds the winning card hand, all aces, and the rat is crawling from the end of the log. Then, of course, the Chinaman In Boat With Rat On Tray. The toy pistols are the Chinese Must Go, Shoot The Hat, and a single-faced and a double-faced Chinese Head cap exploder. All these toys were made for a definite reason in the period of 1879 to 1882. The background starts around 1871 when there was unrestricted Chinese labor immigration into our country. They worked for very low wages and many people felt they were destroying our labor standards and taking jobs away from our own laboring group already in our country. In 1887 there were serious outrages against the

Chinese workers instigated by Dennis Kearney, the burden of whose song was 'The Chinese Must Go.' This relates back to the Burlingame Treaty which granted the Chinese residence in America and was agreed on in 1868. In 1877 the Senate investigated the Treaty but made no changes and this set off the agitation led by Kearney and others. It wasn't until 1882 that Chinese laborers were denied admission to our country for a 10-year period. Then in 1892 the Geary Law extended these restrictions for another 10 years. So, to repeat, there is no question but that the Chinaman In Boat was made in the period of 1879 to 1882 when the anti-Chinese feeling was at its peak.

To sum up, the Chinaman In Boat With Rat On Tray is a very desirable rare item and the reader can form his own opinion as to its being a bank or not. In the writer's opinion it is unquestionably an authentic toy mechanical bank made by Bailey in the period of 1879 to 1882 and that it was for sale the same as the Springing Cat Bank and the Baby Elephant Bank Opens At X O'Clock. Further definite proof of this may turn up in the future but this is possibly remote since Bailey made a number of his earlier banks in his own workshop in Cobalt, Connecticut, before he went with the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut. There is very little information that exists on these earlier banks other than those that he was able to patent.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1955

For sometime the writer has wanted personally to express his appreciation for the many nice letters received in the past few years with their complimentary remarks in reference to the articles on mechanical banks. Sincere effort has been made to answer all letters personally but, of course, there is always the possibility of a slip-up. Also effort has been made to have all information and opinions as accurate as possible on the mechanical banks and so far with one or two exceptions this apparently has been the case.

One unintentional error was observed by our alert collector friend Leon Cameto. This was omitting the Trick Pony Bank from our complete list of the mechanical banks. The listing will be published again in the near future with a few corrections, including the Trick Pony. The Chinaman In Boat With Rat On Tray should be among the authentic American-made banks and possible evidence has come to light that the Cross-Legged Minstrel is a German-made item and, therefore, should be among the foreign-made banks.

Another item, picked up by collector friend C.R. Howell, had to do with a recent article on recast banks wherein the writer stated that recast parts, using an original bank as a pattern, did not fit together too well as they were larger. Mr. Howell points out that cast iron shrinks and, therefore, parts would be too small, not too large. Technically this is true. However, the writer, in the article, was referring to parts as they are generally turned out today by those who are recasting banks. These parts are larger than the originals since a good deal of filing or grinding is necessary to make them fit even poorly. This is due to a number of reasons. Carelessness in casting for one, a difference in the cast iron for another, and also the sand used in the molds varies. These things more than account for the minute shrinkage of the cast iron and the parts wind up actually larger. It might be well to point out that when casting a small part it is necessary to rap or tap this part to remove it from the mold. This rapping makes the mold imprint of the casting larger. On a piece 1" square it can be 1/32" larger, so the part made from this mold is actually larger even though it shrinks minutely. Shrinkage of cast iron is about 1/10" to the foot.

In line with recast banks and mechanical banks in general the writer has had some interesting

correspondence recently with Henry W. Miller who has years of background in the mechanical bank field from collecting and dealing in them. As a matter of fact, Mr. Miller purchased his first bank in 1935 in Williamsport, Pa. It was a Teddy And The Bear. He then purchased several others, the Bad Accident, Stump Speaker, and so on until he had around 25 in his collection. At this point it was decided that they took up too much room at the time so Mr. Miller placed an ad in HOBBIES and the response was such that he decided it was an opportunity for a spare time business. After retirement from his position with the Department of Agriculture he made mechanical banks a full-time hobby business and still carries on with more enthusiasm than ever.

One occasion in his experience is quite interesting in connection with the Presto Bank where the mouse appears on the roof. When he received the bank in a cardboard carton a live mouse actually jumped from the package itself.

Mr. Miller brings up several questions such as why do people recast, have any of those so doing announced it as a hobby, and do they do it openly. Then he answers these by saying "No, they do not" and feels that the reason they do it is a devious hopeful way of obtaining material gain. He also poses the question as to what a collectible specimen of a mechanical bank should be. Is it one that was sold to the trade commercially as a child's toy? His answer to that is yes, and in cases other than being sold as a commercial child's toy the bank should be considered on the merit of historical value or other relevant historical information. He further states that some collectors will buy anything with a "hole" in it and call it a bank, but that it certainly doesn't have any significance in the evolution of toy banks. Of course there is no harm in this if a collector just wants to add banks to his collection regardless of background. Recasts, in Mr. Miller's opinion, have no place in a collection, no value, and certainly no historical merit. He feels that recasts simply spoil the beauty and value of a collection of genuine old toy mechanical banks.

Mr. Miller has also posed the question if it would be wise or meritorious to organize a collectors and or dealers association and each individual pledge not to buy, trade, make or sell a recast mechanical bank. Perhaps, in his opinion, such an association supported by membership dues could pick up recast banks and destroy them and perhaps point a strong finger in the direction of those who are recasting the toy banks.

Mr. Miller's opinions have been passed along to the reader by the writer as he feels they are of definite interest.

A word of caution is in order with regard to various booklets appearing on the market for pricing, buying and evaluating mechanical banks. It is very difficult to actually set up a percentage evaluation that covers all the banks as to paint, missing parts, and the like. The percentage differential between a common bank and a rare bank are entirely different. A repainted bank can, percentage-wise, be much less valuable than one with broken or missing parts.

Also some false statements are being made. As example, the remark that most of the early collectors got their banks from people who did not know their value. This is completely untrue. The early collectors are the very basis and foundation of the market that exists today for mechanical banks. Further we can't go back 20 years or more ago and assume that banks were worth then what they are now. The antique dealers sold banks to early collectors and received the going prices at the time.

In any event, the intent of the writer's comment on the various booklets on mechanical banks is to be construed in a constructive, not destructive way. Any good reliable information based on knowledge of the subject is constructive. However, misinformation can be more destructive than no information at all. The writer is very much in favor of booklets, articles, and the like on mechanical banks that are accurately and generally helpful to the collector and dealer.

American Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1955

Mechanical banks which are objects such as a Camera, Locomotive, Pistol, or Sewing Machine form a very limited number of banks. As we reach No. 37 in our numerical classification we come to one of these banks, namely the American Bank or Sewing Machine.

The bank shown is from a privately owned collection in Maryland and was obtained from an antique dealer in that State. It is in fine original condition with no repairs and good paint. There are no patent dates, numbers, or any type of marks on the bank. Also, to the best of the writer's knowledge, there are no patent papers or old catalogs that refer to the bank. So any clues to its designer or manufacturer are up to now not known. As a matter of fact it is very possible that the bank was not sold commercially as a toy savings device.

The writer in an effort to trace it through contacted Mr. Thomas H. Palmer, Director of Division of Corporate Organization and Registration, Department of Corporations and Taxation, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This was to find out about the American Sewing Machine Company with the possibility they put the bank on the market themselves. Not much could be learned, however. The Corporation, American Sewing Machine Company, was chartered April 18, 1854 under Chapter 330 of the Acts of 1854 and it was dissolved March 31, 1931 by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 1931. No other statistics were available due to the fact that the Corporation has been out of existence so long.

The setup of the bank, the design or the way it is made also offer no direct identity to any particular designer or manufacturer. So until such time as more information turns up it is the writer's opinion that the bank has a direct connection with the American Sewing Machine Company itself and was very probably made as an advertising item.

The bank shown has an overall color of black except for the decorations. The raised lettered name "American" is painted in gold. The two fancy decorations are in red and green and the striping is done in gold.

The operation consists of turning the crank and in so doing the pulley revolves moving the needle up and down. Coins are dropped into the slot as shown but have no connection with the mechanism. This, of course, brings up the point that technically the bank is a semi-mechanical based on the generally accepted theory of what actually constitutes a mechanical bank. However, long standing tradition and the fact that it is a very interesting item as a bank has kept it in the mechanical group. The writer is not prone to change this. After all, the Camera Bank, for example, has no connection between the coin and the mechanism, and the Safety Locomotive is another borderline between mechanical and semi-mechanical. So, along with these two banks, the individual can form his own opinion as to the American Bank being mechanical or semi-mechanical.

To sum up, the American Bank is a scarce, rather difficult item to find and its unknown background and possible connection to the American Sewing Machine Company add to the desirability to have one in a collection.

Preacher in the Pulpit Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1955

The Preacher In The Pulpit Bank, No. 38 in our numerical classification of mechanical banks is another example of the group whose mechanical operation is caused to occur by the weight of a coin. This is always a very interesting group of mechanical banks since a coin is such a necessary part of the action and essential to the operation. The Preacher In The Pulpit, as well as the Bank Teller Bank, are the outstanding mechanical banks in this interesting group, and, in addition, both are very rare.

There are no patent dates or markings of any kind on the Preacher In The Pulpit, however, it was covered by the same patent papers as those covering the Bank Teller Bank. The action and type of operation is identical in both these banks. It seems to have been generally assumed that the figure of the man on each bank was the same, however, this is not the case as can be seen by comparing the pictured bank with that of the Bank Teller as shown in the classification article covering this bank. The patent papers were issued August 1, 1876 to Mr. A.C. Gould of Brookline, Mass. Until such time that evidence to the contrary might possibly turn up we can attribute the manufacture of the Preacher In The Pulpit to the J. and E. Stevens Co. of Cromwell, Conn. To date, to the best of the writer's knowledge, there have been no old catalogs or other type of material that picture or refer to the bank to identify it positively with a particular manufacturer.

A note of special interest is the fact that the patent papers as issued to Mr. Gould cover a bank in which the figure of a man would tip his hat in addition to the other action. Apparently this had been given serious consideration when the Preacher In The Pulpit Bank was actually made since the right hand which is raised to the head is a separate casting held in place by a pin inserted through the two-part casting of the arm. It is the writer's belief that the hat-tipping part of the action was discarded since it would place a strain on the rest of the mechanism whereby the weight of a coin would not be sufficient to cause the bank to operate properly. Also of interest is the point that the bank apparently has been called the Preacher In The Pulpit largely due to the position of the right arm and hand. Actually this has nothing to do with the figure representing a Preacher. The upraised arm had only to do with the man in the act of tipping his hat. In pointing this out it is not the writer's intent to change the name of the bank. After all, collectors have given the bank its present name and it is descriptive and appropriate under the circumstances.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of Mr. L.C. Hegarty. It formerly was in the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby. It is in fine condition and the paint is unusually good for such an early fragile bank. The flat unusual shaped base is painted black and the desk-like coin container is red with black outlining. The top of the container is black outlined with gold. The figure of the man has a black coat, gray trousers, and the tray in his left hand is gold. His shirt is white with a blue tie and gold buttons. The face and hand coloring are natural and he has black hair and moustache.

The operation of the bank, like the Bank Teller, is not particularly spectacular. The coin is placed on the tray and the weight causes the left arm to lower. At the proper point the coin slides from the tray into the receptacle shown in the picture. As the arm lowers the man tilts his head forward. When the coin is deposited the arm and head automatically return to their normal position as in the picture. The spring mechanism inside the figure of the man is rather delicate and it must be in perfect working order to operate properly.

All in all the Preacher In The Pulpit is an interesting fine rare bank and like some of the others offers a real challenge to the collector in trying to find one. To the best of the writer's knowledge the specimen pictured is the only known one to have turned up so far. A main contributing reason for its rarity is the fact that it is a very fragile easily broken bank. Also it is an early item and it's possible that there were not many manufactured.

Panorama Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1955

In the recent classification article on the Uncle Remus Bank it was noted that it partially approached a group of mechanical banks so far not covered in any of the articles. This group is the house-building group and as we classify the Panorama Bank as No. 39 in our numerical classification we have the true form of a house bank.

The house-building group of the mechanical banks include, along with the Panorama, such examples as the Magic Bank, Home Bank, Novelty Bank, New Bank, U.S. Bank, Cupola Bank, Halls Excelsior, Wireless, and a few others. While the U.S. Bank and Cupola Bank are somewhat rarer than the Panorama, it is generally conceded that the Panorama is the most desirable and interesting bank in the house-building group.

The name Panorama as applied to the bank is, strictly speaking, somewhat of a misnomer. A panorama is, of course, a view or picture unrolled before ones eyes, hence a complete view in every direction. The bank gives us a series of different pictures on a cylinder form and probably this was the basis of naming the bank Panorama. As a matter of fact the patent papers indicate a connection between the name and the fact that the pictures move into place, each replacing the one previously seen.

The bank was patented by J.D. Butler of Lancaster, Mass., assignor to G. Selchow of New York City and John H. Richter of Brooklyn, N.Y., March 7, 1876. It was manufactured by the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. The bank as manufactured varies somewhat from the original patent and sketch, however, the basic mechanism and operating principle are the same. In the papers a prism, a square, and a hexagon are used in connection with the pictures being displayed individually. A different picture, of course, to be on each flat surface. However, as actually manufactured, a cylinder was used and the pictures are on a curved surface.

The bank pictured was obtained some years ago in New England and is in fine original condition with excellent paint and no repairs. The roof is painted red and all windows are outlined in red. Front, back and sides of the house are painted a light blue-green, and the round chimneys are the same color. Other sections, such as the doorway, are outlined in dark brown. The pictures which appear behind the glass covered section are scenes in various colors. These groups of pictures vary and the same ones were not used with all Panorama Banks made.

The bank operates by inserting a coin in a slot located in the center of the back slope of the roof. Pushing the coin into the slot engages a lever that causes the cylinder to revolve and thus show each picture in sequence. Of course a coin must be used each time to bring a different picture into position. There are six pictures on the cylinder and these show children in various forms of play such as boating, fishing, and the like. Coins are removed by means of a screw-held sliding coin trap located in the bottom base.

The house-building type of mechanical bank offers an attractive group and the Panorama is an outstanding example. It is not an easy bank to find and its connection with an early moving series type of picture is of great interest.

Called Out Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1955

A limited group of the mechanical banks made toward the end of the popularity of mechanical banks comprises quite a rare and desirable selection. The Called Out Bank, No. 40 in our numerical classification, is a typical although unusual example of this group. The banks in this group of late manufacture are rare in a number of cases due to the fact they were not made over a period of years such as is the case with many of the banks.

The Called Out Bank is a unique item in a number of ways. For one thing it has never been definitely established that it ever reached the stage of being sold commercially. Then, too, it has usually been accepted as a Spanish-American War item while it actually is more likely a World War I memento. It is interesting to note that during the early years of mechanical bank collecting there was a tendency to place some of the mechanical banks in a period of time considerably earlier than their actual manufacture. This, of course, was to give an impression of greater age which actually had nothing to do with the situation. Some of the banks that were first made in the 1906-1915 period are among the most desirable and rarest. Included in these late banks is one of the most desirable and rarest of all the cast iron mechanical banks, the Clown, Harlequin and Columbine.

The Called Out Bank is a J. and E. Stevens Company product and was designed by Charles A. Bailey. Even though catalog insert sheets exist that picture and describe the bank for sale by J. and E. Stevens it is the writer's opinion that the bank was never actually put on the market for sale to the public. As a matter of fact, to the best of the writer's knowledge, no specimen of the bank has ever been found with any type of finish or paint. For some time there existed some doubt about any specimens of this bank other than the several pattern examples in bronze. These, of course, are authentic master patterns of the bank and are complete and in operating condition. They are in privately owned collections. Any cast iron examples of this bank just weren't particularly available for inspection. However, recently the Chrysler collection came on the market after seventeen years in storage and also the Corby collection was made available. There was one authentic cast iron example in the Chrysler collection and two authentic examples in cast iron in the Corby collection. There is no question but that these three examples are original factory-made banks. There is no paint or finish on them and these specimens were undoubtedly never on the market.

The bank pictured was obtained by the writer from the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby's collection. It is in excellent condition but, of course, to repeat, there is no type of finish or paint on the bank. The operation of the bank is similar to another Bailey-designed item, the North Pole Bank. In operating the Called Out Bank the figure of the soldier coming out of the top of the tent is depressed by pushing down on the figure itself. This automatically locks in place inside the bank. Then a coin is pushed in a slot located in the left side of the bank as shown in the picture. The figure of the soldier automatically pops out of the tent as shown. This, of course, represents a soldier "called out" for action.

Needless to say, the Called Out Bank is a hard item to add to a collection. There apparently is a very limited number in existence and none have turned up for some years other than those made available from private collections.

Turtle Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1955

A mechanical bank with an exceptionally recent manufacturing period is the rather exceptional choice to occupy No. 41 in our numerical classification of mechanical banks. The bank is the Turtle Bank and it was made in apparently limited quantities sometime during the period of 1926-1934.

The bank was designed and modeled by M. Elizabeth Cook, an artist and sculptress, and it was manufactured by the Kilgore Manufacturing Company of Westerville, Ohio. The Kilgore Company's main line was the manufacture of toy cap pistols. However, during 1926 they introduced a series of four mechanical banks, an Owl, a Frog, a Rabbit, and a Turtle, all designed by M. Elizabeth Cook. The first three were apparently made in large quantities and had wide distribution. But the Turtle, for some reason, obviously had limited production and distribution as while the first three are rather common, the Turtle is quite rare.

The four banks each had their own individual name and were called as a group 'The Thrifty Four.' The names of the individual banks were descriptive of the action in each case. Jug-O-Rum, the Frog, opens his mouth as though croaking his name. Blinky, the Owl, blinks his eyes. Flop-Ears, the Rabbit, flops his ears up and down, and Pokey, the Turtle, pokes his head out. Each bank was packed in a cardboard box and on each box was a poem that linked the banks together as a series. As example, the following poem is from the box containing Flop-Ears, the Rabbit:

*"Flop-Ears, the Rabbit, hops around,
Lifting his ears for every sound,
He sees Blinky, the Owl, high in an Oak,
And hears the Frog, Jug-O-Rum croak,
And wonders if Pokey, the Turtle, so slow,
Can catch up with him, if he hops real slow.
Flop-Ears, the thoughtful Rabbit
Says, 'Get The Saving Habit' ".*

The bank shown is from the fine collection of Mr. Morton Bodfish and the writer expresses appreciation to both Mr. Bodfish and Mr. Ralph J. Lueders for the picture of the Turtle bank. The bank was obtained by Mr. Bodfish through the purchase of the Lederer collection. It is believed to have originally been part of the late James C. Jones' collection. It is in fine mint condition with original paint and no repairs. The bank is painted as follows: The rock-like base is green and the under edge of the shell is orange, the shell itself is black, and the head, neck, and legs are also black. The outline of the mouth is yellow and the eyes are white. The body section on each side of the head is blue and the underside of the head is yellow.

The operation of the bank is quite simple but desirable since a coin is necessary to cause the action. As can be seen in the picture the coin slot is in the top of the shell. When a coin is pressed into this slot the neck and head of the turtle protrude about a half inch. As the coin drops into the bank the head and neck return to their original position as shown. There is a key-locking coin trap in the base of the bank for removal of coins. The size of the bank is of interest since it is quite small being only 3½ inches long and 3 inches high.

The number of Turtle Banks that have been found so far is very limited and the number known to be in private collections is less than the fingers on one hand. Actually it's a very desirable little mechanical bank although it means more to the advanced collector than the beginner. This, of course, due to the fact that it's not particularly imposing as to appearance or spectacular as to action. It's a hard bank to find and none have turned up in recent years. This in spite of the fact that it has such a late date of manufacture.

Camera Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1955

The Camera Bank, No. 42, in our numerical classification of mechanical banks, is an intriguing item with a definite greater appeal to the advanced collector and, like the American Bank, represents a specific object. Also, like the American Bank, it is a border-line case between semi-mechanical and mechanical since in the strictest sense it is a semi-mechanical bank.

To the best of the writer's knowledge the designer of the Camera Bank is not known and apparently it was never patented since no patent papers have been found that would cover the bank. The manufacturer is known, however, as the bank was made by the Wrightsville Hardware Company of Mount Joy, Pa. There is a bit of folklore surrounding the Camera Bank that has to do with the Eastman Company and their direct effect on the Camera Bank being taken off the market due to the use of the word "Camera." The same type story is told of a Stevens' still bank that was called the Kodak Bank. How much truth exists in either case has, to the best of the writer's knowledge, never been proven. In any event, it's a harmless story, true or not, and has to do with George Eastman manufacturing and using the word "Camera" and then later on adopting the name "Kodak" for his product. The alleged stoppage of the manufacture of the Camera Bank by Eastman is suggested as one reason for its rarity today.

The bank shown was obtained by the writer through the good help of David Hollander, Riverdale, New York City. It is from the famous Walter Chrysler collection which had been in storage for seventeen years. Mr. Hollander, who is handling the disposal of the complete collection, has been involved in this in recent months and, of course, some very desirable mechanical banks have thus come on the market. The Camera Bank is one of the rare, desirable, items from the Chrysler collection and it is in excellent original condition. The camera itself is a bronze gold type of paint and the tri-legged base is painted black. The bellows section of the camera is a pale greenish color. The picture is a vari-colored item of a small boy holding a mask in his hand. The word "Camera" appears on the rear section of the bank just in front of the picture and the word "Bank" is on the front section. Both words are cast in simple raised letters.

As to the action of the bank, it is extremely simple. By depressing and releasing the lever, located in the left rear corner of the camera, the picture is caused to pop up and then down. The picture is in a small cast iron frame that moves up and down, however, the frame cannot be pulled out of the bank itself. The coin slot is located across the rear part of the bank between the picture and the word "Camera." Coins can be dropped into this slot at will and have no connection whatever with the action. In this respect it is exactly like the American Bank, and in the strictest definition is a semi-mechanical bank. But again, as in the case of the American Bank, the writer is not prone to try to change this as tradition has for some time established the Camera Bank as a mechanical bank. It's quite a desirable little item and the action, while not spectacular, is very appropriate and offers an all-around attractive bank.

Since the Camera Bank is of rather small size its dimensions are of interest. It is four inches high overall and the camera itself is four inches long and two inches wide. Coins are removed by unscrewing the tripod base from the camera itself. In so doing the camera section comes apart since the screw part of the tripod base holds the bank together.

On numbers of occasions and in various accounts the Camera Bank and the American Bank have been represented as having the mechanical action coordinated with the insertion of the coin. Of course this is not true and apparently the motive has been to make them more desirable and more truly mechanical banks. This is completely unnecessary as each is well established on its own just the way they originally and actually were made.

The Camera bank is a very desirable addition to any collection but, to repeat, it is probably more

greatly appreciated by the advanced collector. It is a very hard item to find and none have turned up in recent years other than those sold from private collections.

Billy Goat Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1956

As we reach No. 43 in our numerical classification of mechanical banks we come to another bank that has more appeal to the advanced collector. This bank is the Billy Goat Bank, a rare and desirable item, but not particularly impressive as to appearance and action.

The prolific bank designer, Chas. A Bailey, patented the Billy Goat Bank July 26, 1910, and it was manufactured by the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. It's of interest to note that Bailey also patented the North Pole Bank on the exact same date as the Billy Goat. As a matter of fact the magazine "Playthings" for May, 1910, announced both the North Pole and Billy Goat Bank as newcomers on the market. The North Pole to sell at 50c over the retail counter and the Billy Goat to sell at 25c. Neither one of these banks apparently attained any degree of popularity even though it's apparent the Billy Goat was put out as a hopeful large seller at the price. And the North Pole to capitalize on the current historical event. Even toy drums with North Pole scenes were hopefully put on the market at the time. In any event, neither one of the banks were made in any great quantity or over any long period of time. It is always well to keep in mind that the length of time a bank was made is a great factor in its being rare or common today, Tammany, and Halls Excelsior, for example, were made year in and year out over a period of many years. Therefore, great quantities of these banks were manufactured and that is the reason they are two of the most common mechanical banks found. Of course popularity and salability of any mechanical bank was the governing factor as to the length of time it was made and the quantity that were manufactured.

Back to Chas. Bailey for a moment, it is well to recognize the large field of his mechanical bank designing. As a matter of fact if a collector only had mechanical banks either made or designed by Bailey he would have an outstanding collection. Bailey's banks are among the most desirable from all angles, including action, appearance, and clever mechanism. He covered a very broad field with his toy banks even including history and politics in their makeup. Any mechanical bank showing the Bailey touch has an extra measure of desirability and value.

The bank pictured is in fine original condition and was obtained by the writer some years ago in a Boston antique shop. It is painted in a very simple way, the entire base being a silver or aluminum type paint over a light tan undercoating. The small flower in the center is red. The goat is black with a white eye and white marking. It's interesting to note that the name "Billy Goat Bank" is inscribed along the bottom edge of the base and the word "Bank" has the letter 'n' in reverse. The entwined scroll work of leaves and flowers is typical of Bailey's work.

The action of the bank is quite simple. The coin is placed as shown in the picture. Then the wire lever, just under the goat's rear legs, is pulled. This causes the goat to rise and butt forward toward the coin. The coin drops into the bank and on pushing the lever forward the goat returns to the position in the picture. This bank has the conventional type round Stevens' coin trap in the base for removal of coins.

To repeat, this bank is not particularly spectacular in its appearance or action, but it is a rare desirable item to have in a collection. Some of these simple action banks such as this one, the Turtle, and others command a lot of respect and rate well ahead of many much more attractive

banks. It is a hard bank to add to a collection and a limited number exist in private collections today.

A Rare Find — The Kiltie Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1956

A completely new find of a heretofore unknown mechanical bank is uncommon in the field of mechanical bank collecting, and amazing when one considers the length of time mechanical banks have been a collector's item. To the best of the writer's knowledge, there have been no discoveries of importance in the mechanical bank field in the past several years until this.

The Kiltie Bank (No. 44 in our series) is an authentic mechanical bank. It is the bust type and adds an interesting specimen to this particular group. Made of cast iron, and a very well made piece, it is also finely modeled.

It was made in England and is similar to Dinah and several of the other English bust type banks. On the back, between the shoulders, is inscribed "Kiltie Bank." Below this appears a registration number which the writer had authenticated by the Patent Office in England.

The bank was obtained by the writer from Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Merritt who discovered it recently in Scotland while on an antiquing trip abroad. It was in the original container on which was a picture of the bank itself. This, of course, adds greatly to the prestige of the bank as the container with picture is further proof of authenticity.

Mrs. Merritt, through diligent searching, learned of the existence of some items from an old toy shop. The shop had been closed for some years prior to the beginning of World War II, and some of the stock was stored in the home of a relative of the former toy shop owner. Here Mrs. Merritt was fortunate enough to locate it.

The bank shown is in mint condition and colorfully painted. The hat is black with two red stripes. The face is flesh color, with tinted cheeks, black moustache, blue eyes, and a bright red mouth. The jacket is all over red with buttons, buckles, and the like outlined in white. The wool scarf over the left shoulder is a green and red striped plaid. The name inscribed on the back is painted gold.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed in the extended right hand, and then a lever in the rear left shoulder is pressed. The right arm raises, and the coin slides from the hand into a slot in the left shoulder. At the same time, the eyes raise, and then lower when the lever is released. The arm returns to the position shown.

An English penny is necessary for the proper operation of the bank. Our pennies, nickels, or dimes do not work. They simply fall from the hand and do not enter the coin slot. Also it's interesting to note that the coin does not enter the mouth, as is the case in all other mechanical banks that are this same type bust with the extended hand.

This Kiltie is not only an attractive bank but is also an appropriate subject in being the bust of a Scotchman since the Scotch are known for their saving habits and jokes and stories surround their holding onto their money. This Scotchman, going a step further, holds onto another person's money.

Bismark Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1956

A mechanical bank that is very much under-rated is our choice to occupy the 44th position in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. The bank is the Bismark Bank, and along with being a rare interesting item it has a rather fascinating background and origination.

The top mechanical bank designer, Charles A. Bailey, is responsible for the Bismark Bank, and, as is often the case with certain of the banks he designed, there is more to it than just being a child's saving device. Offered as a toy savings bank and definitely sold commercially as such it nevertheless had political significance appropriate to the times.

Bismark was born in 1815 and died in 1898. In 1866 he was made Chancellor of the German Empire and this began a long period of his trying to unify Germany as a world power. In so doing he did many things that reacted directly against the United States. For one thing Bismark impaired the Monroe Doctrine and went so far as to call it an 'international impertinence.' Bismark while posing to be friendly, actually did many things that reacted unfavorably to the United States, covering such things as religion, immigration, colonial expansion, and others. Relations between Germany and the United States after 1880 were affected by German commercial restrictions. For some years one of our main exported items to Germany were various meats. This consisted chiefly of pork and pork products, and in 1883 they prohibited the importing of United States pork into Germany. The possibility of trichinosis was used as an excuse to ban any more U.S. pork and pork products being imported into Germany. So, in any event, it's obvious to see how Bailey associated Bismark with a pig and had Bismark himself popping out of the pig's back. The bank was, of course, first made during the 1883-1884 period. This is definitely substantiated by the Ehrich's Fashion Magazine, Winter 1884, which pictures the Bismark Bank for sale.

The bank pictured was obtained through the good help of Mr. Edward Rost of St. Louis, Mo. It is in excellent condition and the paint exceptionally good. The pig itself is black and he has a red mouth. The nose, eyes, and hoofs are white, and the lettering of the name is gold. The face of Bismark is flesh color with black eyes and moustache. His jacket is red and the tray is gold.

The bank operates as follows: The figure of Bismark is depressed forward and locks in place by means of a spring action in the tail. With the figure of Bismark thus inside the pig's body a coin slot appears just above the tail in the pig's back. This coin slot design is similar to the tail of the goat on the Germania Exchange Bank, also made by Bailey. A coin is put in the slot and then the tail is pressed. The figure of Bismark pops from the pig's back as shown and the coin is deposited in the bank. It is not a well designed piece from the standpoint of being strictly a savings bank since the coins themselves when inside the bank actually interfere with the mechanism. This, of course, doesn't detract but actually adds to the interest of the piece. Of further interest is the spring inside the pig that accentuates the Bismark's bust. It is necessary for this spring to have three extra twists put into it when placed in the bank so it will operate properly. If this is not done the tray catches in the spring and interferes with the action.

A number of Bismark Banks are around, but to the best of the writer's knowledge there are only about four or five actual original specimens that exist in present collections today. It is a very difficult bank to find as an original specimen. Unfortunately a number of years ago a limited number of this bank were recast and sold as originals. They are very easy to recognize, however. The casting of the pig is exceptionally heavy and painted a light cream color. The figure of Bismark is quite crude and not like the fine work of the Bailey original. The tail of the pig operates differently, by lifting it instead of pressing it down. The loop of the tail is down instead of up as in the original. The spring mechanism is also differently arranged inside the recast specimen. To repeat, the recast of this bank is very easily recognized and it isn't even like the original except in a

rough general appearance. These recasts made some years ago in no way affect the fine rarity and value of an original specimen.

NEW MECHANICAL BANK BOOKLET

F.H. Griffith, who conducts the Mechanical Bank Department for HOBBIES Magazine, has prepared a new booklet on mechanical banks. The booklet comprises a numbered and alphabetically arranged listing of all authentic mechanical banks, and each is graded under a new type system which affords a greater degree of accuracy and permanency.

The booklet is divided into seven parts which include the American made mechanical banks, foreign made mechanical banks, semi-mechanical banks, mechanical bank patterns, uncertain and recast mechanical banks, fake mechanical banks, and variations.

It is necessary to charge a nominal price of \$2 for the booklet to cover the cost of printing, publication, and other incidentals. To obtain the booklet write to Mr. F.H. Griffith, Harris Pump and Supply Company, Pittsburgh 3, Pa.

The booklet will be helpful to both collector and dealer in evaluating their mechanical banks. **R.P.**

Clown on Bar Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1956

The Clown On Bar, No. 45 in our numerical classification of mechanical banks, is another of the type that operates only by the weight of a coin. This, of course, is a very desirable feature and always an additional attraction to any of the banks that operate in this fashion.

The Clown On Bar was manufactured by the C.G. Bush & Co. of Providence, R.I. To the best of the writer's knowledge it was the only mechanical bank made by them. The Bush Company was quite well known along an entirely different line, and this was the manufacture of kaleidoscopes. They made some very fine examples of these covered in imitation leather with fine brass fittings and walnut stands. They used fine multicolored glass and also employed the use of small glass liquid-filled tubes. These tubes had different colored liquids in them and added greatly to the effect of their kaleidoscopes.

The Clown On Bar Bank is quite similar to the French's Automatic Bank, or as it is more commonly known, Boy on Trapeze. The similarity, of course, is the fact that both banks have a figure on a bar, and both revolve by the weight of a coin. The Boy On Trapeze, however, makes a certain number of revolutions according to the weight of the coin used. A penny causes the figure to turn once, a nickel twice, and so on. The accuracy of the balance of the Boy On Trapeze is controlled by a counter-balance weight which makes it much more sensitive in its operation. The Clown On Bar makes a number of revolutions regardless of the size or weight of the coin. However, it will operate by using a dime, while The Boy On Trapeze will not operate with a dime.

The bank shown is from the very fine collection of Mr. L.C. Hegarty whose interest, by the way, is shared by his wife, Gertrude. Mrs. Hegarty is quite instrumental in having the collection in top shape by her meticulous efforts in cleaning and working on the banks. The Clown On Bar was obtained by Mr. Hegarty through the help of A.W. Pendergast. It is in unusually fine original condition with excellent paint. The figure of the clown, which is made of tin, is painted an overall white, with red striping and decoration. The rest of the bank, including the two uprights as well as the base, is painted gold bronze, and these parts are made of cast iron. The wording, "C.G. Bush &

Co., Prov., R.I." is cast in one side of the bank in simple impressed lettering.

A coin is placed in the wire holder in the Clown's hand to operate the bank. The weight of the coin causes the Clown to revolve forward on the bar and in so doing the coin falls from the wire holder into the depressed top of the base. There is a large coin slot in the depressed section and the coin goes through this into the base itself. The figure returns to its normal position as shown in the picture, ready for another coin.

The bank is nicely made with diamond-shaped perforations surrounding the sides of the base. The figure is a well-made stamping in tin, and neatly decorated, showing some care in its manufacture. All-in-all the Clown On Bar is an exceptionally nice bank to have in a collection. It's a difficult item to acquire since very few have turned up so far. There are four specimens known to exist in private collections today.

A Rare Mechanical Bank Advertising Item

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1956

Mechanical banks were made, of course, as a child's toy savings device. Being a toy, as such, they had a very short life span. Any paper material such as old catalogs, pamphlets, or circulars that advertised mechanical banks seem to have had a similar type short life span.

It's quite natural that old catalogs and circulars that have to do with mechanical banks would have a tremendous appeal to the bank collector, and particularly so as he becomes more advanced in his hobby. This type material not only establishes and adds prestige to certain specimens, it also furnishes a wealth of background and knowledge of our subject, mechanical banks.

The item herewith pictured is invaluable in many ways so far as the collector of mechanical banks is concerned. For one thing it pictures and describes the rarest, most desirable mechanical bank of them all, the Freedman's Bank. For another, it shows that in the period of its sale and manufacture the term 'mechanical' was applied as a descriptive terminology to the bank. All of us interested in banks have often thought that the word 'animated,' for example, might be more appropriate as applied to the action banks. However, if 'mechanical' was good enough back in 1880 it's good enough today.

Another point that makes this particular circular quite rare and desirable is that it was published by the manufacturer himself, Jerome B. Secor, and refers to Ives Blakeslee Company as being a selling agent for the bank. The descriptive part of the circular is of interest, of course, as well as the price the Freedman's Bank was sold for at the time. \$4.50 was a very high price for a toy to sell at in 1880, and particularly a toy savings bank.

This fine rare circular has come to light among the effects of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby and is now in the writer's collection through the courtesy of L.C. Hegarty. This circular was originally discovered by Lawrence B. Romaine of Middleboro, Mass., around the period of 1936. It was found among two barrels of paper material that originally came from Foxboro, Mass. It was through the efforts of Mr. Romaine in sorting this material that the circular was found and, of course, it has gained in importance over the ensuing years.

Baby Elephant Bank — Unlocks At X O'Clock

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1956

As we reach No. 46 in our listing of the mechanical banks we again come to Charles Bailey and another of his unusual intriguing specimens, namely the Baby Elephant Bank, Unlocks At X O'Clock. This is not only an attractive little bank with unusual action, but also quite rare and hard to find.

The bank was designed and manufactured by Charles Bailey in his shop in Cobalt, Connecticut. This was before he went with the Stevens Company and, of course, these earlier banks that he manufactured on his own are very desirable items. He patented the Baby Elephant Bank November 16, 1880 under No. 234,518. This bank, like in the Chinaman In Boat, is evidence of his meticulous fine pattern work and, like the Chinaman In Boat and Springing Cat, it is made of lead. It also has a wood base plate similar to the Springing Cat.

Bailey must have spent endless hours on the fine detailed work on the four-sided base, top plate, and figures on this bank. On both front and back plate of the bank there is embossed the figure of an elephant holding a baby in his trunk. Right beneath the baby is the head and open mouth of an alligator or crocodile. The elephant is just ready to drop the baby into the open jaws of the ferocious crocodile. In balloon outline type wording, such as used in old cartoons, the baby is saying 'Oh If I Had Only Put Some Money In The Bank.' In back of the elephant is a large floral type plant. The two end base plates show an embossed urn containing foliage. The top of the base is also ornately etched. Along one side edge is the wording 'Baby Elephant Bank.' Along the opposite side edge is 'Unlocks At X O'Clock.' A clock face with Roman numerals is on one end of the top and the hour and minute hands are in one movable unit. A small elephant is attached to the top at the other end as can be seen in the picture. On one side of the elephant is the word 'Baby' and on the other side appears 'Bout 1.' The tongue and tail of the elephant is a single unit and moves back and forth a short distance through the body of the elephant. In the front legs of the elephant there is a flat outlined piece that fits into a corresponding outlined recess in the top plate. This piece is decorated on the top side, and along the bottom edge has the date November 16, 1880 in very small figures. On the underside of this piece there appears the flat figure of a baby. This baby pivots in the front legs of the elephant and is fastened by means of a brass nail. The hind legs of the elephant also pivot on the base and are fastened the same way. A point of interest is the use of steel wood screws in holding the bank together. Two wood screws that fasten parallel into the side plates hold the four-part base and top together. A single wood screw holds the wood base in place by screwing into the top plate. The elephant is also held together by a single small wood screw. This method of fastening the bank together by using wood screws was also employed by Bailey in making the Chinaman In Boat.

The bank shown is in nice condition and was obtained by the writer through the good help of an antique dealer friend located in Mid-West. His wishes to remain anonymous in this case are recognized as he did not want to offend any of his other bank collector friends and customers. This type of thing has been happening in the bank collecting field more and more since certain banks have become harder and harder to find. This is also true of rarities in other fields of collecting, such as stamps, etc.

The bank is painted as follows: The bottom wood baseplate has yellow edgings. The four sides of the base are a transparent blue, and the entire top is silver. The elephant is a dark gray with red blanket and tongue. The flat figure of the baby has some red clothing on it and the balance is the same transparent blue as the base with the exception of the face, which is silver color with red lips.

To operate the bank the elephant is pushed forward and down onto the base. The back part of the flat baby figure hooks under a small brass nail in the base and neatly fits into the formed recess. The small extended piece at the top of the head fits under a niched circular plate that is fastened to

the clock hands on the underside of the top base. The hands must be set at X O'Clock in performing the above operation and they are then moved to another position. When the hands are moved back to X O'Clock the elephant rears on its hind legs to the position shown in the picture. At the same time the baby is raised into position. The tail of the elephant comes in contact with the end plate and this moves the tongue forward. This may have been intended to push the baby forward but it usually falls forward anyway. With the elephant and figure in the position shown in the picture a coin slot is exposed that runs the length of the recessed section. Into this slot coins are dropped at will and after so doing the bank is reset for action.

A word or two about the baby and wording "Bout 1" is in order. This so-called baby is a rather grotesque figure to represent a baby and the same can be said for the figure held in the elephant's trunk on each side plate. However, Bailey in the patent papers covering this bank actually calls the figure a baby. Bailey obviously made this figure grotesque for his own reasons. As to the wording 'Bout 1', this possibly refers to the baby saving money as being No. 1 in importance early in life. In not saving money, the baby is thrown to the crocodiles. However, the baby is saved by operating the bank to insert money, as the elephant pulls the baby back up. The 'Bout,' of course, being between the baby and the elephant. Bailey apparently felt the object lesson of his bank, with its dire threat, would encourage children to save their money.

The Baby Elephant Bank is a fine hard item to add to a collection and only six or seven specimens are known to exist in some of the larger collections today. It may be of interest to note that the action in exposing the coin slot is somewhat similar to the New Bank, U.S. Bank, and Cupola Bank. The action of these four banks have in common the end result of exposing the coin slot for use.

Bamboula

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1956

A unique discovery in a mechanical bank has recently taken place in the finding of a Bamboula Bank. This bank is unique in that it is the only authentic French made cast iron mechanical bank so far discovered.

The circumstances of the writer obtaining the bank are more or less unusual as is so often the case when a collector is fortunate enough to add a good bank to his collection. To begin with, E.L. Ramsay of York, Pa., obtained the bank some time ago with a large shipment of various antiques imported from France. The bank was then sold (apparently as a Jolly Nigger) at one of Mr. Ramsay's auctions to a Mr. Fulton, also of York. The writer, while attending a recent Eastern auction including some mechanical banks, was having an interesting time of it in conversation with other bank collectors and various dealers, including Frank Whitson of Baltimore, Md. At one point Mr. Whitson asked the writer if he had ever heard of the English-made Bamboozle Bank. That was a new one on the writer and immediate interest was expressed. To make a longer story short, Mr. Whitson obtained the bank for the writer and it turned out to be Bamboula, not Bamboozle, and French, not English.

As can be seen in the picture the bank resembles and is quite similar to the American-made and English-made Jolly Niggers. There are a number of differences in the casting, however, and the base plate is very unusual with a unique type coin trap. The trap can be operated with a coin or screw driver. It consists of a semi-circular opening in the base with a semi-circular closing plate on the inside. This plate is held in place by a strong spring, also inside the bank. The plate is affixed to

a large round slotted knob that is operated from the underside of the base. The knob when turned left or right moves the plate exposing the opening.

The name Bamboula appears in raised letters on the back of the bank as can be seen in the picture. Under the name, depressed in the casting, appears the word 'Depose'. This is the French indication of Marque Depose, or a registered trade mark in France. Depose literally means deposited, and this indicates that the mark has been deposited or registered.

The name of the bank has quite an interesting background and is completely of French origin. Bamboula liberally translated means a large crowd and lots of noise. It is a French slang word and originated in North Africa with the Colonial troops of General Bugeaud who conquered Algeria in 1840. It is actually the French spelling of an Arabic word and was brought back to France by the returning troops from Algeria.

The bank shows an interesting amount of usage and age, and while as yet the exact date of manufacture is unknown to the writer, it was, in his opinion, made in the 1895 to 1910 period.

The operation of the bank is the same as the Jolly Nigger. A coin is placed in the extended right hand, press the lever and the coin is deposited in the mouth as the tongue recedes and the eyes roll upward. The face is painted black with red lips and white teeth, the eyes are white background with black pupils and red iris. The shirt is red and the tie is black.

To sum up, it is, of course, always of great interest when a heretofore unknown mechanical bank turns up. Beyond this, the greatest attraction of the Bamboula centers around the fact that it is the first French cast iron mechanical bank found to date.

United States Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1956

The actual form of a safe is certainly appropriate as a savings bank and as we reach No. 47 in our numerical classification, The United States Bank, we have an accurate representation of a safe. There are only three known mechanical banks in the shape of a safe and the other two are the Watch Dog Safe and the Fortune Teller Savings Bank. The United States Bank is considerably rarer than either of the other two in the group, and it also has better action.

The United States Bank was patented August 27, 1880. This date appears in gold stencil on the rear bottom edge of the bank itself. To the best of the writer's knowledge, however, no patent papers have been found so far that cover this bank so the actual designer is not known. It is possible that the patent papers covering this bank are in some group or class number so far unexplored and further future research may bring them to light. As to the manufacturer, there are certain characteristics that are indicative of the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. It is fairly reasonable to assume that they made the bank.

The bank shown was obtained by the writer from the extensive collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby. It is in fine condition and painted an overall green with black outlining on the door, the front, the back, both sides, and the top. The inside of the top as well as the recess in the top are painted white. The name and the patent date are in gold stencil and the bead work on the door is in gold. The hinges, the coin slots, and other details are also highlighted in gold. The picture of the little girl is very colorful and appropriate to the time of the bank's manufacture.

The bank as pictured is shown after the action has taken place. To operate the bank the top is depressed by hand and it clicks into place. When this is done the bank looks like an ordinary safe and there is no evidence of any mechanical action. A coin inserted into either of the two slots

causes the top to spring open as shown exposing the picture. The weight of the coin causes the action to take place by coming into contact with a spring action lever inside the bank. It's interesting to note that this particular specimen of the bank has two coin slots, one in the door and another in the top front edge. Each work equally well. The other examples of this bank that the writer has seen only have the single coin slot in the door. Coins are removed from the bank by unlocking the door by means of a key.

The United States Bank is a scarce item, and difficult for the collector to add to his collection. It may be that this bank is unintentionally passed up by dealers as being an ordinary safe type of bank or still bank. This could possibly be a contributing factor to its scarcity. It might be well to also mention that the writer knows of three other specimens of this bank that do not have the stenciled name in gold on the door. This could be due to several reasons, such as not naming the bank when it was first made or leaving the name off at a later date for some necessary reason. In either case, however, with or without the name, it is a challenge to the mechanical bank collector to add to his collection. There are five or possibly six examples of the United States Bank known to exist in private collections.

Presto Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1956

A rare bank with unique utilization of the coin in its operation is our choice as No. 48 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank, the Presto, is also distinct in that only one specimen has been found to date.

The bank was designed and patented by H.C. Hart and J.W. Cross of Detroit, Michigan, April 8, 1884. It was manufactured by the Henry C. Hart Manufacturing Company also of Detroit. There are certain indications that Mr. Cross had an interest in a hardware store that distributed and sold the Presto.

The bank pictured is from the fine collection of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Roup. It is in good original condition and the paint is practically mint. This bank, along with a Trick Pony, was sold to an antique dealer at an auction near Morgantown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Roup purchased both banks from the antique dealer.

The Presto is painted all over red with all figures and lettering in gold. The viewing section, operating lever, lip on the coin slot, and the base plate are painted black. The paper label on the frosted glass section is dark blue with the operating instructions printed in gold.

The bank has very interesting decorations as can be seen in the pictures which show both sides. People and children are shown in various activities. The verse on the viewing section end is as follows: "We offer aid To all who strive To make one penny Twenty-five". The coin section end of the bank has the name 'Presto!!' thereon.

There are 26 parts that make up the Presto, and the inside working mechanism is cast iron and sheet iron. A flat piece of black sheet iron slides back and forth under the frosted glass section when the lever is pulled back and forth. This also releases the penny after insertion in the coin slot. There is a piece of plain glass inside the viewing section that reflects a twenty-five cent piece into the position occupied by the inserted penny. The twenty-five cent piece is permanently located inside the bank in the proper position for the illusion.

To operate the bank a penny is placed in the receptacle or coin slot holder located at the tapered end of the bank over the name 'Presto'. This is shown in the picture. The penny stays in position

inside the bank, the bank is then held so that light is reflected on the slanting frosted glass surface. The individual then looks into the viewing section as shown in the other picture. When the lever is pulled the penny automatically drops into the base section and in its place there appears to be a twenty-five cent piece. This gives the effect of the penny magically changing into a quarter. The illusion is caused by the reflecting glass surface, not a mirror. Pennies are removed by means of a rectangular coin trap in the base plate. The base plate is a clover leaf perforated pattern with the wording 'Pat. Applied For' inscribed thereon.

The Presto Bank is a very interesting rare item and completely different than the other mechanical banks with its illusion effect. The Smyth X-Ray and the semi-mechanical Multiplying Bank are somewhat similar, but each employ mirrors, the X-Ray in seeing through the coin and the Multiplying in showing one coin as several coins. The Presto is obviously a real challenge to the collector and so far, to repeat, only one is known to exist in a private collection.

Light of Asia

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1956

The Light of Asia, a dual purpose mechanical bank, is our choice as No. 49 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank is not only a child's savings device, but it also served as a pull toy. A string could be attached to the front of the platform to pull the toy around or it could be pushed around by hand. Two other mechanical banks of similar purpose are known to exist, the Motor Bank and Jumbo. The Motor Bank has already been covered some time ago in the articles and the Jumbo, while very much like Light of Asia, is not nearly as rare.

So far there is no existent information as to who designed or made Light of Asia. It has the distinctive desirable type of so-called heart wheels which were used on a number of the different type animated bell ringing pull toys. However, this does not lead us to any specific manufacturer, as a number of the companies used the heart wheels, including Stevens. Some characteristics of the bank indicate Stevens and others are indicative of Kyser & Rex. There are no markings on the bank, no dates, and no patent papers have turned up so far, nor have any old catalogs been found with information or pictures of the bank. The date of the bank, however, can be pretty well established as during the early 1880's.

A poem, "The Light of Asia," was written by Sir Edwin Arnold and published in 1879. The poem, "The Light of Asia," also called 'The Great Renunciation,' concerned the life and teaching of Gautama, Prince of India and founder of Buddhism. The poem, as told by an imaginary Indian Buddhist, is in verse form. After the publication of his poem Buddhism took quite a hold in our country, and as a matter of fact actually became fashionable in the period of the early 1880's. In 1885 S.H. Kellogg, D.D., who for a time was Professor at the Western Theological Seminary, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, wrote a book called "The Light of Asia and The Light of the World." This was a comparison of the legend, the doctrine, and the ethics of the Buddha with the story, the doctrine, and the ethics of Christ. According to Kellogg, Arnold presented the Buddha and his religion to the English reading public in such an attractive guise that often, quite unexpectedly to the individuals themselves, they had awakened in their minds a surprising interest in this "venerable religion." Kellogg wrote his Light of Asia, of course, to combat the effects of Edwin Arnold's Light of Asia. Obviously the name of the bank was taken directly from the poem written by Sir Arnold and logically it was made in the period of the poem's popularity which was the early 1880's.

It is the writer's opinion that the Jumbo Bank is a later altered edition of the Light of Asia, the

name being changed to Jumbo to coincide with P.T. Barnum and his acquiring Jumbo from the London Zoological Gardens in 1882 for exhibition purposes. It is, of course, possible that both banks were made simultaneously and perhaps some proof one way or the other will turn up in the future.

Another point of interest has to do with the type elephant used on the Light of Asia. This is definitely an Asiatic elephant with the smooth trunk lacking the transverse ridges and grooves always found on the African type. Also it is tuskless which is indicative of Asiatic elephants, and particularly those in Ceylon. The shape of the head, which does not slant down from an arched back like the African elephant, is also definitely Asiatic.

The bank shown was obtained by the writer through the good help of Mr. Rymond F. Long of Pearl, Illinois. Mr. Long in turn had acquired the bank from Mr. G.E. Swope near Kewanee, Illinois. Mr. Swope informed Mr. Long that the bank had been in his family over 70 years which would place it prior to 1885.

The bank is in excellent condition and completely original with no repairs. The elephant is painted a light gray with a red blanket edged in yellow. The name and crescent are painted gold. The ears and portions on the legs are highlighted in pink and the mouth is red. The platform and wheels are overall green with some highlighting of gold on the wheel spokes and edges of the platform.

To operate the bank a coin is inserted in a coin slot in the elephant's back. This causes the head to move up and down. The head is counterweighted inside the elephant and the coin comes into contact with this counterweight. The elephant is fastened to the platform by means of two bent over pins cast into two of the elephant's legs, left rear and right front.

This is a very desirable bank and difficult to find, particularly in original condition with wheels. The wheel factor adds greatly to its desirability as well as its scarcity since these would be easily broken by a child. So far there has been only one of these banks found completely original. There are two, possibly three other Light of Asia banks, without wheels or platforms.

Wimbledon Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1956

Mechanical banks that were made in England comprise an interesting group of specimens to challenge a collector. As we reach No. 50 in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks we have our first English made bank of the series, namely the Wimbledon Bank. The bank is not only an attractive rare item, but it is believed to be the earliest known mechanical bank manufactured in England.

The date of the registration of the bank is September 21, 1885, and it was made by John Harper & Company, an old line English foundry who were an active factor in their field. They made a number of different mechanical banks, but details on these and the Company itself will be covered in the future by a special article.

The bank pictured is from the fine, extensive collection of Andrew Emerine, one of the earlier collectors of mechanical banks. Mr. Emerine purchased the bank in 1939 from E.R. Harvey, a Norwich, England, antique dealer. Mr. Harvey in turn had obtained the bank from an individual who had owned it for approximately 36 years. This original owner had 12 to 14 mechanical banks that he purchased in 1903 from an old, established, wholesale toy warehouse in London. Some of these banks were old stock even at the time he purchased them in 1903. He was a mechanical toy

dealer and the banks interested him so he held on to them until 1915, at which time they were all lent out to local banks for the purpose of raising funds for the Belgian Refugees Fund. A few years after this a persistent individual managed to purchase a 'Spise a Mule' from him. However, he apparently regretted letting it go and the longer he kept the remainder the less he was inclined to sell any others. Eventually, he let others go and finally Mr. Harvey purchased the Wimbledon Bank, John Bull Money Box, Grenadier Bank, Hoop-La Bank, and the Tank and Cannon. This was done over a period of time and the banks were purchased one at a time. Mr. Emerine was fortunate in being able to obtain all five of these banks from Mr. Harvey. Their condition is, of course, exceptionally good due to the unusual circumstances of their never having been in active circulation.

The Wimbledon is quite attractively painted. The base is green and the brown fort has the flag in red with a black cross on white ground. The prone soldier's hat and trousers are in black trimmed with yellow. His jacket is pink with yellow cuffs and collar. The gun he is holding is black.

To operate the bank the gun is first set to fire as shown in the picture. In setting the spring operated mechanism the head of the soldier tilts slightly forward as though taking aim. A penny is then placed on the gun as shown. A small lever is then pressed and the coin is fired into the fort as the soldier snaps his head back into position.

The name Wimbledon Bank, which appears inscribed on the base, has a definite connection with the subject and action of the bank. The National Rifle Association was formed in 1860 and incorporated by Royal Charter 25 in November of 1890. The first meeting was held on Wimbledon Common in 1860 and frequent subsequent meetings were held in Wimbledon over a period of 30 years. These meetings included competition with other countries and the Queen's Trophy was a coveted prize awarded by Queen Victoria. This was an annual award and in later years it became the King's Trophy. Space and safety eventually were the motivating factors that caused the Association to move to Bisley in July, 1890. In addition to the Rifle Association and its connections with Wimbledon, there also existed the Second Wimbledon Volunteers Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment.

The Wimbledon Bank is a fine addition to any collection and since there are only three known to have turned up so far it offers quite a challenge to the mechanical bank collector.

Football Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1956

The Football Bank, another English made mechanical bank, is our choice as No. 51 in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This is an attractive bank with its sporting subject and quite scarce even though there were apparently a considerable number of them manufactured.

The bank was made by the English concern, John Harper & Company, who also made the Wimbledon Bank and the well known Dinah Bank. Harper was active in the mechanical bank field and turned out a number of interesting desirable specimens in addition to the above mentioned banks.

The Football Bank is a registered item, and while intended as a toy savings device, it was apparently also sold to various Clubs. The bank is shown in one of the old Harper catalogs and the statement is made that it could be "Supplied In Club Colours For Orders Of Six Dozen Or More." This would indicate that the bank was possibly used as a trophy or prize among certain English clubs or as a gift to members with the respective club colors on the bank.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of L.C. Hegarty, an enthusiastic mechanical bank collector. He obtained it some years ago from an Eastern antique dealer who in turn had found it in England. The bank is in fine completely original condition with no repairs and excellent paint.

The bank is painted as follows: The base is entirely green simulating a field with grass-like indentations in the casting. The name "Football Bank" appears on the base in raised letters and these are gold in color. The shed-like structure, properly called basket, on the end of the bank is an overall brown. This has diamond shaped grillwork in the back. The rear corners have oval perforations in the casting and the sides are a herringbone type pattern. The top is lattice-like slots. There is a white goal post on each side of the front with a cross-piece at the top also painted white. The front of the basket is a woven lattice effect with diamond shaped openings alternately painted reddish-maroon and white. The coin holder just in front of the figure is brown. The figure of the player has brown shoes, black socks, and white trunks. He has a turtle neck sweater in reddish-brown with blue sleeves and collar. His hair is black and the facial features are fine and distinct.

The bank operates as follows: A coin is placed in position in the coin holder, then the player's right leg is pulled back into kicking position where it is held in place by the operating lever. On pressing the lever the player kicks the coin into the opening between the goal posts on the basket. A screw on the underside of the base allows the basket to raise for removal of coins.

A point of interest is in the figure of the player being made of brass, as is the operating lever. The rest of the bank is cast iron. In making the figure in brass the manufacturer undoubtedly felt that this metal would stand certain strains in the kicking action better than cast iron.

The Football Bank, like several other of the sporting motif mechanical banks, is an attractive desirable item. Not many have turned up to date as there are only about six known to exist in private collections.

Automatic Coin Savings Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1957

A bank with a fortune telling motif is our choice to occupy the 52nd position in our classification articles. This bank is the Automatic Coin Savings Bank, also known as the Fortune Teller Building. Since there is a bank actually named the Fortune Teller Savings Bank it is felt that the Automatic Coin Savings Bank should be called by its proper name, particularly in view of the fact that this name appears on the bank itself and was used in old advertisements offering the bank for sale.

The Automatic Coin Savings Bank was made and sold during the period of the 1890's. As a matter of fact in the November 1893 issue of the New Peterson Magazine there appears an advertisement offering the bank for sale. The bank is pictured in this ad. The ad itself is of interest and it reads as follows:

"Save Your Money. Send for an Automatic Coin Savings Bank, delivered express pre-paid for \$1.25. One of the latest novelties for Holiday Presents. Each deposit changing the Motto. Its novelty will make it attractive in every Home, and induce liberal deposits, and the children will find their Bank a source of much entertainment as well as profit. Agents wanted. Automatic Coin Savings bank, 32 Hawley Street, Boston, Mass."

The bank shown was obtained by the writer from the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby. It is completely original and in fine condition with no repairs. This specimen has a bronze type finish. It was also made in a nickel plate finish.

To operate the bank a coin is dropped into the provided slot. This causes the wheel of fortune to

turn one notch and the motto appears in the space shown in the picture. Each coin used turns the wheel one notch at a time. It does not spin.

The materials used in making the bank are of interest. The wheel of fortune is made of cardboard, wood, and tin. Tin strips are set into the wood framework of the wheel and arranged in such a way as to trap each coin, moving the wheel a notch, and then releasing the coin. The weight of the coin, of course, causes the wheel to turn. The fortunes are printed in black on the white cardboard face of the wheel. Colored cardboard in blue or red is fastened to the inside of the grillwork in front and in back of the building. This, of course, imparts some color to the bank, and the writer's specimen is in red. The entire shell or frame of the building is cast iron.

There is a good deal of wording on the bank and this is as follows: On the slanted top of the bank over the coin slot appears 'Drop A Coin.' Opposite this 'And I Will Tell Your Fortune.' On the face of the building appears the name of the bank 'Automatic Coin Savings Bank,' and below this 'National Savings'.

The Automatic Coin Savings Bank is a very interesting different type of mechanical bank. It is a difficult item to find and particularly so in good condition. There are six, possibly seven, of these banks known to exist in private collections.

Animated Bell Ringer Toys

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1957

There is no doubt that mechanical banks are the leading collector's item in the field of old children's toys. This is no reflection on doll collecting as this is a separate specialized field of its own. The old cast iron toys such as the various horse drawn type, including fire engines, circus wagons, carriages of all types, streetcars, then trains and old toy automobiles are all very desirable collector's items. However, another specialized group of cast iron toys has become especially desirable and in a number of cases are being sought after by the collectors of mechanical banks. These are the animated bell ringing pull toys which enjoyed a popularity during the same period as the mechanical banks.

Two companies were very active in this particular field of manufacturing bell ringing pull toys. These companies, the Gong Bell Manufacturing Company and the N.N. Hill Brass Company, made a wide variety of the toys with many different subjects and actions involved. In this respect they are very similar to mechanical banks. The various mechanical actions of the animated bell ringing toys are along simpler lines, however, than those of the mechanical banks. Other companies made some bell ringers and of particular interest is the J. & E. Stevens Company, the top manufacturer of mechanical banks, Watrous Manufacturing Company, and Ives-Blakeslee & Company. Hubley entered into the picture, and no doubt Wilkins and a number of others made some of these interesting toys.

As with the mechanical banks, many intriguing and interesting names were given to the bell toys. Among these are Ding Dong Bell (a rare mechanical bank has the same name), Whoa Der Ceaser, Evening News Baby Quieter, Wild Mule Jack, The Columbus Egg, Mary And Her Little Lamb, The Cossack And The Jap, Are You A Buffalo, Uncle Sam And The Don, Trick Elephant Bell Ringer, Kicking Mule Bell Ringer, Cinderella's Chariot, The Tramp, The Surf Boat, The Clown Bell Ringers, Jonah And The Whale, John Bull And Uncle Sam, and many others.

To properly classify as an animated bell ringer the toy must have some movement of a figure involved with the ringing of the bell. There are several in the group, however, that are not strictly

speaking, animated. Examples would be Daisy, Landing Of Columbus, and Cinderella's Chariot. In these the bell rings, however, no other movement takes place. These are, nevertheless, very interesting well made cast iron bell ringers and could be compared to the semi-mechanical group of banks as compared to the mechanicals.

There are, of course, other types of bell ringers such as those of strap iron and tin, also bells between two wheels, or a horse pulling a bell. These are not in the same class nor should they be confused with the fine type of bell ringers under discussion. They are not nearly as desirable, nor do they have the appeal of the cast iron type. There are several exceptions in the tin type, and two of these are the large size Camel and Horse bell ringers made by the Gong Bell Manufacturing Company. These are both well made and when found in good condition are desirable. In several exceptional cases there are cast iron bell ringers in combination with moving tin figures and these are at the top in desirability. Examples of these are the Monkey And Pony, The Bell Ringers, and The Girl In Cart.

Several bell ringers from the writer's collection are shown. The Drummer Boy is a fine example and was designed by Charles Bailey, the foremost designer of mechanical banks. The Happy Hooligan Automobile and the Double Ripper Sled were made by the N.N. Hill Brass Company. The Monkey On Tricycle was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company, and the Poodle Dog, Ding Dong Bell, and Eagle were manufactured by Gong Bell Manufacturing Company. Buster Brown And Tige was made by Watrous Manufacturing Company. The Telephone Chimes Hello Hello is an item of the mid 1880's and is pictured for sale in the 1885-86 Catalog of Selchow & Righter. They are brightly painted in appropriate colors and are well made toys comparable to the procedure used in making mechanical banks.

These animated pull toys being subject to both indoor and outdoor play of a rather rough nature are quite hard to find, particularly so in good original condition.

Hold the Fort Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1957

The stirring battle cry "Hold The Fort" is the appropriate name of the mechanical bank chosen as No. 53 in our numerical classification. This is another of the cannon shooting into the fort type of bank, however, the action is quite realistic in that the cannon actually shoots small steel pellets at the target.

The Hold The Fort Bank was patented by Samuel Clark of Brooklyn, N.Y., on November 20, 1877. The bank shown in the picture closely follows the patent diagrams. Another type was brought out at a later date and this is explained further on in the article. The actual manufacturer of the bank is as yet not known. However, we have other information as to when it was sold and so on. This information appears in the form of an advertisement in the American Athletic Journal for the Winter of 1877. The bank is pictured in the ad and it is exactly the same as the one shown here. In quoting from this advertisement the exact operation of the bank is explained. The entire ad is as follows:

**"Hold The Fort"
MONEY BANK
(Patented)**

"Teach The Young Idea How To Shoot" **Directions for Operating the Bank.**

"Pull the rod, to which the string is attached, as far back as to allow the trigger on top of the cannon to drop in its place. If a percussion wafer is used, put it in the opening provided for it, using care in placing it so that the hammer will strike it. Put the ball in the cannon and it is ready to discharge. Place the coin on the rest behind the rear of the target; press the trigger and the cap will explode, and at the same time the ball will strike the coin and send it in the Bank. The ball generally follows the coin into the Bank and comes out of the perforated bottom. Be careful to procure perfectly round bullets to insure a perfect shot.

"The Bank is made of iron and painted fancy. Size 7¼x4 inches.

"Sent by mail, prepaid, \$1.25.

"A few shot and caps, and a flag, are packed with each bank."

Further information about Hold The Fort is also contained in this same issue of the American Athletic Journal. Directly beneath the ad for the Hold The Fort Bank appears the Hold The Fort ink stand. This is of somewhat different appearance having rougher stone-like effect around the sides. There are also seven round holes on each side instead of five as in the bank. The name "Hold The Fort" appears along the bottom edge of one of the sides. The same casting that was used to make the ink well in 1877 was adapted to make the Hold The Fort Bank at a later date. This explains why there are two different types of the Hold The Fort Bank.

Another difference in the two banks is the coin trap arrangement. In the earlier model a removable door is located in the end of the bank. This is at the end where the cannon is located. On the later model there is a removable coin trap in the base of the bank.

The bank shown is in fine condition and original except for the flag. The writer has never seen an original flag. Apparently, judging by the old advertising picture, the flag furnished with the bank was an American flag with the wording 'Hold The Fort' inscribed thereon.

The bank is nicely painted in an overall gray with blue edging at the top and bottom. The target housing and other outlinings of the bank are done in red. The cannon is painted blue.

The Hold The Fort Bank is a very interesting addition to a collection. It is not easy to find and particularly so in good condition. Any mechanical bank collector should be pleased if he is fortunate enough to obtain either of the two types that were made.

Woodpecker Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1957

A bank whose appearance and size are more or less unattractive but whose mechanism and operation are of particular interest is our choice as No. 54 in our numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank, the Woodpecker Bank, is rather large in size since it is 12 inches high and appearance-wise it is inclined to look rather box-like. Actually the bank represents a bird house made of birch bark and its proportions are about the same as those of an actual bird house, hence its rather large size as compared to the other mechanical banks.

To the best of the writer's knowledge there is, as yet, no known factual background concerning the Woodpecker Bank. From some angles it has indications of a foreign manufacture, possibly Germany. The music box, shown in the picture, is obviously Swiss, however, this is of no help in ascertaining the origin of the bank. It may have been made in England or France, or possibly the

United States. There are no markings of any kind that would help to identify it. There is a number stamped in the underside of the base. The banks were apparently numbered in sequence as a specimen belonging to another collector has a different number on the underside.

The bank was obtained by the writer through the good help of Mrs. Rose Arnold of Chicago, Ill. It had been in her family for some 50 years and had originally been given to her brother by a family friend. As Mrs. Arnold recalls the bank was not new when given to her brother and to the best of her memory it was some 10 to 15 years old at the time. This would establish the bank as being made during the period of the 1890's. Unfortunately Mrs. Arnold had no other information as to where the bank originated or any other pertinent facts. It is of interest to note that Mrs. Arnold informed the writer that they had always called the bank the Crow Bank.

Two pictures of the bank are shown, one with the mechanism exposed, as the working parts are unusual and quite different than any of the other mechanical banks. To operate the bank a coin is placed on the end of the perch as shown in the one picture. At this point the bird's head cannot be seen as it is inside of the bank. The operator then turns the crank clockwise and the music box starts playing a tune. As the operator continues to turn the crank the bird's head very slowly emerges from the opening accompanied by the music. The bird then grasps the coin in its beak as shown in the picture. Then the bird very deliberately taps the coin on the perch three times, after the third tap the bird snaps back into the house with a bank dropping the coin inside the bank. The coin drops through a tapered slot into the coin drawer. This drawer is shown partially open in the picture showing the inside of the bank. The music plays during the entire operation and stops right after the woodpecker pops inside the bank with the coin.

The bank is not particularly colorful as the entire outside of the bird house is painted to resemble birch bark. The back part of the door is painted the same way and the inside of the house is cream color. The bird head is black and brown with a yellow beak and the eyes are realistic glass eyes. The perch is painted brown.

The entire structure of the bank is made of a rather heavy sheet iron type of material. This is reinforced around the roof and base by heavy wire inserted in the rolled over edges. The gears and works of the bank are made of brass as is the head of the bird. The head is a finely made two-part stamping. The entire front of the house is hinged like a door and this locks in place with the key shown. Even the crank is original, and this is nickel plated with a porcelain knob.

Perhaps an explanation is in order on the writer's part concerning the Woodpecker Bank. There had existed a certain amount of uncertainty as to whether or not the bank was a commercially produced item to be sold to the trade and thus an authentic mechanical bank. The two known existing specimens, found some 20 odd years ago, were not available for inspection. This was the case until last year when the third known Woodpecker Bank turned up in Philadelphia, and right after this the writer was fortunate enough to obtain his specimen. It's rather unusual, but to the best of the writer's knowledge, there were no specimens of this bank found during the above mentioned 20 odd year period. In any event, there is no question in the writer's mind, after thorough inspection, that the Woodpecker Bank was a commercially produced item and thus an authentic mechanical bank.

Let us hope that at some future date information will turn up establishing the actual origin of this interesting bank.

Mechanical Banks — *English vs. American*

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1957

English mechanical banks, among certain of the collectors, have never attained the desirability or popularity of the American made variety. It is understandable that they might not be quite as desirable as those made in the United States as after all mechanical banks are definitely Americana and definitely an original toy product of our country. However, this does not lessen the importance of the English mechanical banks as a collector's item in the field of mechanical bank collecting.

Perhaps some of the so-called mystery surrounding the English banks has indirectly caused certain of the collectors to feel that they are not as desirable in a collection. Actually the English banks, for the most part, were made by companies that were comparable to the concerns who manufactured banks in our own country, and these English banks definitely represent an important group of the mechanical banks. While a number of different specimens were made in England it seemed that the bust type of mechanical bank was the most popular, and in this group they excelled in the number of different types and subjects.

There were two outstanding English concerns that made mechanical banks, John Harper & Company Ltd. and Chamberlin & Hill Ltd. Harper's banks were often identified with the name "Beatrice" as a trade name. They made one of the earliest of the English mechanicals, the Wimbledon Bank, in 1885. Among the other fine specimens manufactured by Harper are such banks as Dinah, the rare Kiltie, Jolly Nigger Butterfly Tie, Little Joe, Hoop-la Bank, Football Bank, and Jolly Nigger Top Hat. They also made the Tommy Bank, and to the best of the writer's knowledge, no example of this has been found as yet. The Grenadier Bank, similar to our Creedmore, was also made by Harper in the 1898 period. Chamberlin & Hill made, among other mechanical banks, the rare Clown Money Box or Clown Bust. So far the writer knows of only one specimen of this bank in a collection. Then they made a different type Jolly Nigger with both movable and fixed eyes. The outstanding bank produced by them, however, was the Little Moe Bank in which the bust type figure tips his hat in polite thanks upon receiving the coin. All the mechanical banks made by John Harper & Chamberlin & Hill are cast iron and appropriately painted in various colors.

The Jolly Nigger Moves Ears is another interesting mechanical bank produced in England. This was made in aluminum and the designers and patentees of this bank were Robert Eastwood Starkie and Nellie Starkie of Burnley, England. This bank is not to be confused with the recently made model designed by Robert Patterson Starkie. The copyright and the Register of Design on this bank were taken out in August, 1945. In this recent model the ears fit on a line with the front and back half, also the overall casting is different than the original Starkie's Patent. On the waffle type base plate of the recent model appears the Registration Number 844290. In the original Starkie Patent the name Starkie appears on the back of the bank between the shoulder blades. Also the ears are set forward near the eyes. A V-shaped section on each side of the back half fits into corresponding sections in the front half and it is at this point that the ears are located. This earlier type also has a top hat.

Another very interesting bank of English origin is the John Bull Money Box. This bank is similar to the Hoop-la and the American made Trick Dog. In this case there is no hoop and the dog jumps in front of a figure of John Bull depositing the coin in a barrel. So far the writer has been unable to ascertain the designer or manufacturer of this bank. Here again the writer knows of only one specimen of this bank in a collection.

In any event, to sum up, the writer does not expect that any of the English mechanical banks will ever reach the high pedestal of the Freedman's or the Harlequin or a number of the other American banks, however, they are an important group and have as much place in a collection as any of the

other mechanical banks. No large collection could be considered as completely representative if it did not contain some specimens of the English mechanical banks.

Cupola Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1957

A mechanical bank bearing an early patent date is our choice as No. 55 in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank, the Cupola Bank, is, as a matter of fact, the thirteenth mechanical bank covered by a patent. In this case the number thirteen is lucky considering the bank as being a rare good item, however, it is unlucky for some collectors who do not have one since it is a rather scarce item to find.

The bank was patented January 27, 1874 by inventor Diedrich Dieckmann of New York City. It was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. In patenting the bank Dieckmann was careful to cover all details so that no coin slot would be exposed until the operation of the mechanism. Also carefully covered were the operation of the cupola and the vibration of the figure. Apparently this bank was not manufactured over a long period of years as evidenced by its rarity today. Several of the earlier dated banks such as Halls Excelsior, Dec. 21, 1869, and Tammany, Dec. 23, 1873, are quite common even though they have these very early dates. This is due to the fact that they were both made in large quantities over a long span of time.

The specimen shown was obtained by the writer some years ago in a Boston, Mass., antique shop. An unusual circumstance was that the writer knew of this particular bank being in the possession of the original owner. She was an elderly lady living in East Boston and for several years the writer tried to buy the bank with no success. Sentimental connections were a factor and respecting this, the writer more or less, gave up hopes of owning this particular bank. A surprise was in store, however, when at a later date the same bank showed up in the above mentioned Boston antique shop. Further surprise was the fact that the bank was purchased at a lower price than the writer offered the original owner. This is, of course, an example of the unusual circumstances that every collector sooner or later encounters in adding items to his collection.

The bank shown is in fine original condition with no repairs. The paint is very good and the colors are as follows. The building itself is green with gold striping. The roof is red and the cupola blue. The coin slot section in front of the figure has a green top and the rest of this section is painted brown. The figure has a blue coat, white collar, black top hat, and natural features with a black mustache. The lettering 'Pat January 27, 1874' appears in raised letters on the front curved section of the roof. The word 'Bank' appears over the door. Just over this lettering is a raised section in the casting resembling a beehive.

The bank is shown after the completion of the operation. To operate the bank the cupola is first depressed and it clicks into position. The lever protruding from the front door is then pressed and the cupola flies up into the position shown in the picture. The small man vibrates back and forth and the slot is exposed for the deposit of coins.

The Cupola Bank is another representative of the building group of mechanical banks. Since the action of the bank is not self evident this creates the element of surprise which is a desirable feature. As previously mentioned it's a hard bank to find, and this coupled with its other interesting features make it a desirable addition to any mechanical bank collection.

Toy Cannon

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1957

Fourth of July as celebrated during the 1880's, 1890's and into 1900 was a far cry from the Fourth of July as we know it today. The Fourth in those days was a real bang-up affair with all types of noisemaking devices employed in the celebration. Unfortunately these devices were, in most cases, rather dangerous and accidents of varying degrees of seriousness were rather common. Then too these various noisemakers were made for and largely used by children and the younger segment of the population.

One of the popular type of noisemaker was the toy cannon. The word toy is rather loosely used from a descriptive standpoint since certain types under some circumstances could be dangerous. However, cannon in the overall picture were considerably safer than many of the other Fourth of July items.

Toy cannon as a collector's item offer several very interesting groups. There are those that actually fired powder and numbers of different types and styles were made in this particular group. Then there were cannons made to fire 22 and 32 blank cartridges and blank shotgun shells. Others were made to shoot firecrackers and paper caps. In each group, whether a firecracker shooter, a paper cap shooter, or one of the others, there are numbers of varieties. Some have four wheel carriages and others two wheels. There are breech loaders and others are loaded through the barrel. Many patents were issued to cover all the varieties and types and, of course, this is part of the interest in collecting the old toy cannons.

One of the very interesting and most desirable of the cannon items is the Flying Artillery shown in the center of the cover picture. This was made by Ives of Bridgeport, Conn., in the 1892 period. It is a powder cannon. The cannon and carriage are black with gold outlining and the wheels are red. The caisson section is painted the same as the cannon and each of the men have blue uniforms with red striping and red hats. One horse is brown and the other white. This is a very attractive piece. It is not only a cannon item but also quite desirable as a horse drawn toy.

A number of the cannons have historical significance. "Remember The Maine," bottom row center in the cover picture, is a rare example of this type. It was made by W.S. Hawker of Dayton, Ohio, and shoots blank shotgun shells. It is nickel plated and sections of the carriage and wheels are painted black. Two other historical items each have the name "Swamp Angel." This name comes from the historic Swamp Angel Cannon of Civil War fame. In the picture one Swamp Angel is to the left of the Flying Artillery and the other is to the right. The one on the left was made by Ives and it fires a 22 blank cartridge. In color it is an overall black. The one on the right was made by Kenton and shoots paper caps. It is completely nickel plated. The fine "Dewey" cannon is another historical piece. This is a nickel plated powder type cannon and it was made by the Kenton Hardware Company. It is pictured in the center of the top row.

The Monarch Cannon fired 32 blank cartridges. This was made by Ives. The barrel is painted black and the carriage is red. This is the first cannon to the left in the bottom row. The "Young America Rapid Fire Gun" was patented February 19, 1907. This was made to shoot marbles. A number of marbles were put in the top barrel and when the side crank was turned the marbles fired from the lower barrel in rapid succession. This cannon is black and the carriage is painted in red and gold. In the picture it is the first item in the top row. The last cannon in the top row is a powder type with red wheels and black barrel. The last cannon in the bottom row is a firecracker shooter. It is dated September 3, 1889. The breech turns to the side so that a firecracker could be inserted into

the barrel. The fuse then protruded from the touch hole. This cannon is also black with red wheels. The small cannon between the Monarch and Remember The Maine is also a firecracker shooter. The breech on this cannon opens at the top instead of turning to the side. It is also black with red wheels. The "Match Cannon," the fourth piece to the right in the bottom row, was made to fire the old type sulphur match. It is entirely black with a red rim on the end of the barrel.

Toy cannon with the different groups, types, and varieties offer a very interesting field to the collector. All cannons shown in the cover picture are cast iron.

Afghanistan Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1957

Mechanical banks with historical backgrounds are always of added interest and certainly the Afghanistan Bank, our choice as No. 56 in the numerical classification, is a good example of this category. In addition to the historical angle the bank is quite rare and offers simple but interesting action. It also has an intriguing appearance being quite different than any of the other mechanical banks.

Information as to the historical significance of the bank can logically be determined, however, information as to the background of the bank itself is sadly lacking. There are no patent papers known to exist that cover the bank and there are no markings or definite clues that lead to either the designer or the manufacturer. The writer is fortunate enough to have an old catalog picturing the bank and this does establish the period in which it was made. This catalog is the Ehrich's Fashion Quarterly of December, 1885. Certain features of the bank indicate one of two manufacturers. These are Kyser & Rex, Philadelphia, Pa., and the Mechanical Novelty works, New Britain, Conn.

The bank shown was obtained by the writer some years ago from Mark Haber, of Wethersfield, Conn. It was formerly in the collection of the late James C. Jones. It is in fine condition, completely original, and good paint. It has an overall brown japanned type of finish. Considerable outlining of gold was used and the lettering is in gold. The figures of the lion and bear have red eyes and red mouths. The rounded front and side sections of the base are highlighted in green and gold bronze. As can be seen in the picture the name "Afghanistan Bank" appears in the front and under this the word 'Herat'.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the provided slot. The lever protruding from the front of the bank is then pressed and as the coin drops in automatically both the lion and the bear move toward the gate. On releasing the lever both animals return to their normal positions.

The historical significance is, of course, of great interest. Herat is the name of a province and city in Afghanistan. It is surrounded by a wall 25' high by 14' thick. Placed around and in the wall itself are five main gates to enter the city. The Mongols and Genghis Khan twice destroyed the city in the 13th and 14th centuries. In the 15th century the city became the center of literature and are in the East and noble buildings were then constructed. In the 18th century the Afghan tribes came into the city and took control. Persia tried time and again to take over the city but England joining with the Afghans resisted successfully due to the strategic location of Herat in relation to India. Russia meantime was always a threat to India and Herat was the only serious obstacle to a successful invasion of India from the Northwest. So, to sum up, we have the Russian Bear and the British Lion at the gate of Herat in Afghanistan and the situation is well represented by the bank.

The Afghanistan Bank, while rather small in size, is most certainly large in desirability. It offers a challenge to the mechanical bank collector who does not have one in his collection.

John Bull's Money Box

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1957

A mechanical bank of English origin is our choice as No. 57 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank, John Bull's Money Box, is an outstanding item and has the distinction of being the only mechanical bank known to date that bears the name "Money Box." This terminology is typically English and refers to any coin savings bank. It was also used in the United States as several patent papers covering some of the mechanical banks refer to them as money boxes. However, in both the United States and England the word 'Bank' was generally used when a particular specimen was named and so inscribed.

John Bull's Money Box was made in England, but so far neither the designer nor the manufacturer is known. Also the exact period of the bank is unknown as no catalogs, patent papers, or other types of information have turned up that would help establish specific data. It is a likely possibility that the bank was made by either John Harper & Company or Chamberlain & Hill, Ltd., but so far neither company have found any record of their having manufactured the bank.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of Mr. Andrew Emerine, one of the pioneer collectors of mechanical banks. It is a prized item in his collection along with the Jonah & Whale (Jonah Emerges From Whale), Wimbledon Bank, and a number of others. Emerine obtained the John Bull's Money Box in 1939 from E.R. Harvey, an antique dealer in Norwich, England. This bank was found at the same time as the Wimbledon Bank and several others. It had never been in active circulation and this accounts for the exceptional condition of the bank. The original owner, from whom Mr. Harvey obtained the bank, had originally purchased several mechanical banks from an old established toy warehouse in London. This was around 1903, however, it is not known just how long any of the banks had been in the warehouse. The owner kept them in his personal possession until Mr. Harvey obtained the banks from him.

The bank is very similar to and has the same operation as the American Trick Dog Bank and the English Hoop-la Bank. The main difference, of course, being in the center figure, the dog, and the lack of a hoop. To operate the bank a coin is placed in the dog's mouth as shown, then the lever is pressed and the dog springs forward depositing the coin in the barrel. The dog when pulled back snaps into place and is again ready for action.

The paint on the bank is in excellent condition. The base is black with gray trim and the barrel is black with red trim. The dog is black and white with brown spots and the mouth is red. John Bull has a hat, vest, and boot tops in blue with gold buttons on the vest. His coat is red with gold buttons and he has a red tie and white trousers. His hair is also white. The name "John Bull's Money Box" is inscribed along the front base of the bank.

Mechanical banks have rather contradictory angles as a collector's item. Some of the earliest dated banks are the most common, while some of comparative recent vintage are the rarest. Logically John Bull's Money Box with the figure of John Bull should have been a popular item in England in its time and thus not too difficult to find. This would be comparable to our Uncle Sam Bank which, while a good bank, is rather common and rather easy to add to a collection. John Bull's Money Box does not follow this pattern, however, judging from its scarcity today. Apparently for some reason it must not have sold too well originally or it was made in limited quantity. It's a very interesting bank and the effigy figure of John Bull adds to the desirability of having the bank in a collection.

Target Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1957

Cannons and guns as a toy item have always had popular appeal to boys. In the field of mechanical banks there is a select group of the cannon type bank and this would logically seem as though it should have been a popular group and thus more or less easily available to the mechanical bank collector of today. This, however, for some reason is not the case as the only mechanical bank in this group that is somewhat common is the Artillery Bank. All the others are quite scarce and rather hard to find. A fine example of this interesting group is the Target Bank, our choice as No. 58 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks.

The Target Bank was patented March 20, 1877 by Louis C. Hoffmeister of Philadelphia, Pa., and one half his right was assigned to H. M. Beidler, also of Philadelphia. The action of the bank, which is rather unique, is well covered in the patent papers as is the unusual feature of two coin slots for the admission of small and large coins. The actual manufacturer of the bank, to the best of the writer's knowledge, is unknown. The writer has never seen any old catalogs or similar material referring to or picturing the bank. Also, unfortunately, there are no markings or distinctive features that are indicative of any particular manufacturer. Beidler may have been connected with some concern who made the bank, however, this possibility has not been established one way or the other.

The specimen pictured is from the fine collection of Mr. L.C. Hegarty. It was found in the Duncansville-Hollidaysburg section of Pennsylvania. The bank is in nice original condition, however, the target part is missing. This part was originally located in front of the cannon. It fit into the front of what Hoffmeister in his patent papers referred to as the "house." This target was like a conventional target with circular rings, however, a coin slot ran horizontally across the face at the center. In addition the target was so located in the house that a semi-circular rest was formed in front of the target and this provided for larger coins to rest against the target. An aperture was located in front of the target for the entrance of coins used in this manner. Thus the target itself provided two coin slots, one in the center for small coins and one in front for larger coins.

To operate the bank the firing rod, which runs through the barrel of the cannon, is pulled back into the position shown in the picture. A coin, according to the size, is then placed horizontally in the target or in front of the target. Upon releasing the catch at the end of the carriage the rod springs forward striking the coin, shooting it through the target into the house from whence it drops into the bank. This action is with the smaller coins. When using larger coins the rod strikes the flat surface of the coin pushing it against the target and the coin then drops into the bank.

The bank is attractively painted. The sides of the fort are gray with red edging, the bottom base and the house are blue. The cannon barrel is gray and the carriage is red. The name, "The Target Bank," appears on the side as shown in the picture.

The Target Bank is somewhat similar to Hold The Fort and it is interesting to note that both banks were patented in the same year. However, the mechanism and operation of each bank is quite different. Very few of the Target Banks have turned up so far and it is another difficult item to add to a collection.

Shoot That Hat Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1957

A very unusual bank with an anti-Chinese background is our choice as No. 59 in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank, Shoot That Hat Bank, also has the possible distinction of being produced by Ives of Bridgeport, Conn., although, to the best of the writer's knowledge, this has not been conclusively proven.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of L.C. Hegarty. Mr. Hegarty obtained the bank from V.D. Howe, who in turn had purchased it from an antique dealer. This antique dealer was one of the so-called picker type, and any further information as to the original source of the bank is unobtainable. The bank itself is in good condition with some necessary repair work done on the base.

The Shoot That Hat Bank was designed by C.F. Ritchel of Bridgeport, Conn., and patented by him November 7, 1882. The bank was assigned by Ritchel to S.S. and G.D. Tallman, toy jobbers of New York City. The actual manufacturer of the bank is not definitely known, however, it may very well be an Ives product. Ritchel had connections with Ives as borne out by one of his patents covering an animated toy pistol. This pistol is known as the Clown On Powder Keg. It is a firecracker shooter and was patented by Ritchel May 30, 1882, and assigned to Edward R. Ives and Cornelius Blakeslee. The Ives firm, of course, manufactured the pistol and it has the significant type of finish in dark brown varnish commonly used by them. This same type finish is also on the Shoot That Hat Bank, and this, coupled with Ritchel's connection with Ives, logically leads to a possible conclusion as to the manufacturer. It is, however, also possible that either H.L. Judd or The Mechanical Novelty Works manufactured the bank.

The operation of the bank is as follows: A coin is placed in a provided slot in the water plug in front of the shoe-shine boy. The cloth held by the shoe-shine boy rests against the coin and holds it in place. When the lever is pressed the standing figure clamps the hat down onto the head of the seated figure. The top of the hat rises exposing the face of a Chinaman. Meantime the head of the seated figure is forced downward causing the arms to rise. This releases the coin and it drops between the legs of the figure into a provided slot and on into the base of the bank. Upon releasing the lever the figures return to the position shown in the picture.

As to the paint on the bank, all the figures and the upper part of the bank are a dark brown varnish type of finish. The base of the bank is black, and here again this is a varnish type of finish. The wording "Shoot That Hat Bank" appears on both sides of the base.

It is of interest to note that an animated toy pistol has practically the same name as the bank under discussion. This pistol is called Shoot The Hat, and this name appears on the barrel. Here the action is about the same. A figure clamps a hat on a seated Chinaman and in so doing fires a paper cap previously inserted inside the hat. This toy pistol is, of course, an anti-Chinese item, the same as the Shoot That Hat Bank, and of the same period when this feeling was so prevalent in our country. This pistol was an Ives product.

Ritchel, as a bank designer, apparently shared C.F. Bailey's subtle designing desire to express the feeling of the times in a child's toy. In any event, both Ritchel's Shoot That Hat Bank and Bailey's Chinaman In Boat are quite rare items and very difficult to add to a collection.

Recast Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1957

The writer has always, to the best of his ability, tried to keep current on any situations or complications that have any bearing on the collecting of mechanical banks. Numbers of letters have

been received expressing concern over recast mechanical banks. These letters have been more prevalent in recent months due to the reproductions sponsored by a large Eastern concern. The reproductions are being sold through some banking institutions. The distributor's schedule lists a different bank for each month through June 1958, with a possibility of the program continuing for several years.

It is claimed by the sponsors that the banks are being made from original specimens and according to procedures used in making the original mechanical banks. Needless to say, these would automatically be in the class of recast mechanical banks. They are, however, defined as reproductions on the base plate of each bank. We are not in any way intimating or suggesting that the manufacturer or banking institutions are doing anything wrong or unethical, and agree that they have a right to do what they are doing, and that there is no misrepresentation on their part, because the products are marked or defined as reproductions. We are concerned only with what subsequent users or purchasers might do with the banks after they get possession of them. Unfortunately the method of identification as a reproduction has not proven sufficient, as a number of cases have already occurred whereby other base plates have been inserted in the banks and then offered to antique dealers and collectors as original specimens.

These circumstances are most certainly not beneficial to the hobby of collecting mechanical banks. Of course if an individual has some experience in the field of mechanical bank collecting it is not difficult for him to readily recognize these reproduction banks for what they are. The surface is quite rough and pebbly, the paint is entirely different than on the old banks, and there are other differences. The information on these banks is being brought to the attention of HOBBIES readers as a precautionary measure. The banks to be reproduced as listed by the concerns involved are Creedmore Bank, The World's Fair Bank, Magician Bank, U.S. Cannon Bank, Bucking Buffalo Bank, Artillery Bank, Organ Bank, Tammany Bank, 'Spise A Mule Bank, Eagle Eaglettes Bank, Dog On Oblong Base Bank, Punch and Judy Bank. Each bank is issued monthly in the order given from June of 1957 through April 1958.

These banks, in the writer's opinion, will in no way affect the value of the old, original specimens any more than reprint Currier & Ives prints have affected the value of the original prints themselves. The danger of the situation exists in these reproductions being offered and sold as an original specimen by unscrupulous individuals, who remove the identifying base plate and insert others. This is a difficult problem to control and unfortunately it is up to each person to protect himself. It is suggested that both dealers and collectors use a greater degree of discretion when purchasing mechanical banks from unknown sources. This is particularly important on the dealer's part whereby some stranger either visits the dealer's shop or a booth in an antique show and offers a mechanical bank or banks for sale.

It is also well to bear in mind that the terminology "authentic reproductions" is a rather meaningless use of words. "Authentic" according to Webster's Dictionary, means genuine, and the only genuine item in the case of a mechanical bank is the old original bank itself. The reproduction of this bank is not authentic, but simply a recast bank and, as such, has no value in a collection. Any individual with the proper equipment can recast a mechanical bank, but the end result is nothing more than a recast item, which has no value to a collector.

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Another problem faces the mechanical bank collector of today and this has to do with certain practices involving recasting and faking mechanical banks. This has even gone so far as to involve the misuse of some original patterns of mechanical banks, and unfortunately in several cases these patterns are of some of the rarer banks. Fortunately, these recast banks are not very good and not

difficult to distinguish. However, there have been a number of cases whereby some inexperienced dealers and collectors have been hoodwinked. It does seem a shame that anybody would stoop so low as to become involved in trying to destroy a fine hobby. However, similar circumstances have occurred in various other hobbies, including coins, paperweights, prints, glass, and about anything else a person might mention.

It is further understood that some of these recast banks have come back home to roost, and sooner or later the roof will cave in. In any event, it is time now that the readers of HOBBIES should be informed of these activities, and the writer feels sure that a word to the wise is sufficient.

In closing the writer would like to express his opinion that the collecting of mechanical banks will remain a fine hobby in spite of various recast efforts and the like. Fine, original mechanical banks will always remain a desirable collector's item and interest will continue to increase as it has over the past years. After all, some 15 to 20 years ago there were several individuals involved in recasting banks and their efforts in no way harmed the mechanical bank hobby. The old, original specimens became more and more desirable and increased in value. Over the years this has continued to be the case right up to date. There is no reason that mechanical banks will not continue to enjoy their increasing popularity. They are definitely Americana and represent an ingenious period of American toy production. They are part of the heritage of our country as connected with a period of our history. They represent a past way of life and living in our country, the same as Currier & Ives prints. They are cleverly involved mechanisms with fascinating mechanical action, and while originally made as toys to encourage children to save they had and have just as much, if not more, appeal to grownups. Surely circumstances such as those under discussion cannot destroy a hobby so well entrenched in the hearts of the many collectors of mechanical banks.

U.S Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1958

A mechanical bank with a completely unknown background is our choice as No. 60 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank is the U.S. Bank and, to the best of the writer's knowledge, nothing is known as to the designer of the bank, the possible patentee, the manufacturer, or the actual date or period in which it was made. The writer knows of no catalogs that picture or describe the bank and so far no patent papers have been found. There are no markings on the bank whatsoever and unfortunately no details of the construction, paint, or operation are indicative of any particular concern or individual who made mechanical banks.

The U.S. Bank pictured was obtained by the writer from the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby. It is in excellent all around condition and an exceptionally fine specimen. The bank is a very well made piece with unusually decorative castings, and quite ornate and Victorian. It is a very large and imposing bank and quite a number of parts are involved in the assembly and makeup of the fine building it represents. It is reasonable to assume that the bank was made in the 1885 to 1890 period. This can be ascertained by the appearance of the building and the uniform worn by the policeman.

The bank was obviously made by the same concern that manufactured the New Bank. This is of no help, however, as no more is known about the New Bank than the bank under discussion. The New Bank is a smaller but ornate type building and the same type policeman was used as a guard in the entrance way.

The operation of the U.S. Bank is rather simple. A coin slot is located over the head of the

policeman, however, this is blocked from the inside so that no coins may be inserted until the mechanism is operated. The porcelain knob extending up from the roof is the operating lever, and when this is depressed a slot inside the bank lines up with the coin slot so that it is usable for the admittance of coins. At the same time the face of a dog appears in the round section of the right hand window and the face of a colored boy appears in the round section of the left hand window. Upon releasing the lever the faces disappear and the coin slot is again blocked against usage. The bank is pictured with the porcelain knob held in the depressed position so that the faces of the boy and dog can be seen.

The bank is painted in a very decorative way with bright colors. The front of the building is green with the various windows outlined in red and white, and the doorway is red. The lettering 'U.S.' is painted red with white stripes. The sides of the building are a very dark blue with the diamond grated windows painted green with red and white outlining. The cup-shaped part on top of the building is dark blue, the dome below this is red, and the oval section below this is green. The two square sections of roofing are dark blue with the saw-toothed edgings painted green. The keystone-shaped sections on the roof are red and the four small pinnacles are also red. The saw-toothed edge of the base is green and the inner part of this section is dark blue. The policeman is gold and he is made from a brass stamping.

It might be well to mention that quite often the U.S. Bank and the United States Bank are confused with one another. The U.S. Bank is entirely different and in all cases of known existing specimens the initials 'U.S.' appear as in the picture with the word 'Bank' underneath. The United States Bank, however, is known to exist both with and without the name. Oft'times, however, the U.S. Bank has been called the United States Bank and this, of course, adds to the confusion, as well as being incorrect.

The U.S. Bank is the largest of the house or building group of mechanical banks and, as a matter of fact, it is one of the largest of all the mechanical banks. It is not an easy bank to obtain and it makes a very imposing, impressive addition to a collection.

Organ Grinder and Performing Bear Bank **by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1958**

One of a very limited number of mechanical banks having spring wound motors is our choice as No. 61 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. Another unusual feature about this bank, The Organ Grinder And Performing Bear, is that the patent papers covering the bank apply to another mechanical bank totally different in appearance.

The Organ Grinder And Performing Bear was patented June 13, 1882 by L. Kyser and A.C. Rex, and of course, Kyser & Rex Company of Philadelphia, Pa., made the bank. This patent as issued actually applies to the Organ Bank With Cat And Dog or Boy And Girl. However, the same principle of operation in turning the figures is employed in the Organ Bank and the bank under discussion and this is the feature protected by the patent. In the case of the Organ Bank the operation is accomplished by turning a crank by hand, while a spring motor provides the power to operate the Organ Grinder And Performing Bear. While on the subject it might be well to mention that there is a third type of Organ Bank operating on the same principle. This is the miniature Organ Bank with a revolving monkey. A fourth type has a monkey that tips his hat, but no turning figures are present. These four types of Organ Banks were all manufactured by Kyser & Rex.

The bank pictured was obtained by the writer some years ago from an antique dealer in Bath, Me. It is an unusually fine specimen and completely original. The bank is painted in bright colors

and these are in excellent condition. The base is entirely green with highlightings of red and yellow around the sides, the building is tan with a red roof and door, and the windows are outlined in gold. The back fence is white and one boy has a blue jacket and the other a yellow shirt. The figure playing the organ has a red jacket, gray trousers, yellow hat, and he has natural features with a black beard. The organ is brown and gold, and the figure of the bear is also brown with bronze highlighting. The stick over the bear's shoulders is gold, as is the winding key.

A feature that makes the Organ Grinder And Performing Bear unusually desirable is the sustained action of the bank. A permanent key located on the side of the building is first wound to prepare the bank for operation. A coin is then placed as shown in the provided slot on top of the organ. A small lever on the base is then moved and all the action starts. The coin drops through the organ into the base of the bank, the man cranks the organ with his right arm, and a bell sounds inside the bank. Meantime the bear turns in a more or less hesitant fashion as though performing or dancing. The action can be stopped at any time by moving the lever or, if preferred, the mechanism can run down until it stops of its own accord. It is of interest to note that the windup mechanism is entirely of cast iron with the exception of the flat coil spring.

The Organ Grinder And Performing Bear Bank is a great favorite among mechanical bank collectors. It is not one of the more difficult banks to find, however, it is one of the more desirable. The sustained action, sound effects, and the theme of the bank have an irresistible charm to the collector of mechanical banks, and for that matter to most anyone who would see the bank in operation.

Picture Gallery Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1958

A mechanical bank with a unique educational theme and a very appropriate name is our choice as No. 62 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank, the Picture Gallery Bank, is the only known mechanical bank that is actually instructive and could be used to teach not only the alphabet, but also how to count. In addition there is an object pictured to illustrate each letter of the alphabet and each object has the respective name shown. These names in all cases are short and thus could be used to teach a child to spell.

The Picture Gallery Bank was manufactured by the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo, N.Y., in the period of 1885. The actual designer and patentee is not known, however, it is very likely that C.G. Shepard and P. Adams were responsible. Both these men took out the patent covering the Punch & Judy Bank in July of 1884. The Picture Gallery is very similar to Punch & Judy insofar as the operation of the figure is concerned and the general appearance and makeup of the bank compartment section. It is not believed that J. & E. Stevens Company, after taking over the line of Shepard Hardware mechanical banks, ever made any of the Picture Gallery Banks. In most cases Stevens changed the castings in the base so that their conventional type of round coin trap could be used instead of the rectangular locking trap as used by Shepard. To the best of the writer's knowledge no Picture Gallery Banks have ever been found with other than the Shepard type of locking trap.

The bank shown is in fine original condition and was obtained by the writer some years ago in New England. The paint is in unusually good condition for this particular bank and is quite decorative. The round face of the bank is bright red with an outer edging in green. The lettering and decoration is painted gold. The section containing the numbers, alphabet, and so on is green and the

numbers, the letters, and the objects are painted gold. The face of the man is painted in natural color and he has a blue coat, white shirt, and a red hat.

The levers to operate the bank are in the back. There are two levers, one to operate the figure and the other to operate the alphabet mechanism. To operate the saving feature a coin is placed in the outstretched hand of the figure. On pulling the proper lever the figure turns and lowers his hand depositing the coin in the provided slot. To operate the instructive mechanism the other lever is pressed and a letter of the alphabet appears in the left window. The number of this letter appears in the upper center window and an object with the name shown appears in the right hand window. In each case the name of the object begins with whatever letter of the alphabet is shown. As example, in the picture when the letter 'L' is shown the number is '12', and the word is 'lock' with a lock pictured. In this case the lock shown is the same as that used in the base of the bank itself. The instructive part of the bank has a mechanism that operates on a ratchet principle. This is independent of the savings mechanism and is so designed to enable the instructive feature to be used at any time without the necessity of a coin being deposited.

The Picture Gallery Bank is a very desirable mechanical bank with its completely different educational theme. It is a very showy large bank and difficult to find in good original condition with good paint.

Monkey Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1958

A quite rare but unpretentious mechanical bank is our choice as No. 63 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank, the Monkey Bank, is very possibly an Ives product and this possibility adds somewhat to its desirability. Other than the Bull Dog Savings Bank, definitely an Ives product and an outstanding mechanical bank, it is not known conclusively just what other mechanical banks they did make. The Ives Company was most certainly outstanding in the production of cast iron toys and any mechanical banks produced by them would naturally have a certain degree of prestige. This is not meant to imply that other manufacturers of cast iron toys did not make some outstanding items, but the Ives line as a whole was on a very high level. Certainly, for example, no one surpassed the J. & E. Stevens Company in the field of mechanical banks, however, this was one phase in the overall cast iron toy group.

The Monkey Bank was designed by C.F. Ritel of Bridgeport, Conn., and patented by him November 7, 1882 under Design Patent No. 13,400. It is interesting to note that on the same date he patented the Shoot That Hat Bank under Design Patent No. 13,401. The writer knows of only one other case where the patentee had consecutive patent numbers on two different mechanical banks. C.F. Bailey was the individual and the date was July 26, 1910. The banks are the Billy Goat Bank, No. 965,842, and the North Pole Bank, No. 965,843. Ives very possibly produced the Monkey Bank but, like Shoot That Hat Bank, it may have been made by either H.L. Judd or the Mechanical Novelty Works. Perhaps at some future date evidence will turn up to prove conclusively the actual manufacturer.

The bank shown was obtained by the writer from the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby. It is in good condition and as far as the paint goes it is simply an overall brown type of varnish finish. There are no decorative colors of any kind and no highlighting of any parts. As a matter of fact it's rather interesting in its simplicity.

The operation of the bank is also quite simple. A coin is placed on the flat slide type device held

in the hands of the monkey and the lever in back is then pressed. This causes the arms to rise and in turn lifts the so-called tray, and the coin slides into a slot in the monkey's stomach. It might be well to mention that this bank is at times referred to as the Monkey With Tray. This is a little confusing, however, as there is a tin mechanical bank that does consist of a monkey holding a tray, and it is felt best that this bank be known as the Monkey With Tray. Actually the Monkey Bank under discussion is not holding a tray in his hands and the name Monkey Bank seems sufficient, particularly under the circumstance that no other mechanical bank is known by this name. There is also, of course, the Monkey and Coconut Bank, but there certainly seems to be no reason to confuse these three different banks.

While simple in its operation and appearance, the Monkey Bank is a very desirable addition to any mechanical bank collection. It is an elusive item to find, and particularly so in good condition.

Bow-ery Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1958

As we reach No. 64 in our numerical classification of mechanical banks we are again confronted with a bank whose background is an unknown quantity. This bank, the Bow-ery Bank, has unfortunately no definite characteristics, markings, or identifiable clues that would lead to any particular designer or manufacturer of mechanical banks.

The bank shown is from the very fine collection of Mr. L.C. Hegarty and it was formerly in the extensive collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby. Here again we draw a blank as to any information about the bank since it is not known where Dr. Corby obtained this specimen. There is one helpful piece of information that establishes the approximate time of manufacture of this bank. In the Selchow & Richter Catalog of 1890 the bank is pictured and offered for sale at \$4 per dozen. To the best of the writer's knowledge this is the only piece of pertinent information known concerning the Bow-ery Bank.

The bank pictured is in fine original condition and the only defect of any kind is the piece broken and missing from the top. The base and name section are painted a dark green and the lettering of the name is gold. Other decorations of the front are in gold and the outlining around the name section and the decorations at the top are in red. The back or rear section of the bank has ribbed sides and symmetrical pattern perforations. This entire section is painted with a brown type of varnish. The round section above and between the two bank teller type window openings has a paper label thereon. Unfortunately whatever printing appeared on this label is now illegible. Possibly this consisted of instructions as to the operation of the bank.

The operation is quite simple but effective. A coin is inserted in the provided slot on the ledge of the window shown on the right in the picture. In dropping into the bank the weight of the coin causes both dogs to bow toward each other. The dogs then return to the position shown in the picture.

The mechanism inside the bank is made of wood. This consists of a wooden slide which is caused to move or pivot by the weight of the coin. The paper dog in the right window is fastened to one end of this wooden slide. A small movable block of wood with the paper dog fastened thereon is located in back of the other window. This small block is fastened by a wire to the movable wood slide in the right window. This mechanism causes the dogs to bow when contacted by the weight of a coin.

The pictures of the dogs are of interest. They are printed paper in black and white. The dog in

the right window has a monocle in his eye and is of the 'dude' type. The other dog is a rough character type with his eyes squinted and his mouth twisted. Some kind of name or lettering appears over each dog in the curved section of each window. Unfortunately in both cases this lettering is not legible.

The Bow-ery Bank is most certainly a rare item to have in a collection since the specimen under discussion is the only one known to exist. This point in itself certainly recommends it as a desirable item to the mechanical bank collector.

Goat, Frog and Old Man Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1958

A mechanical bank with the unusual feature of having a companion mechanical bank is our choice as No. 65 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank, the Goat, Frog, And Old Man is a companion piece to the Initiating Bank First Degree. The Goat, Frog And Old Man was originally advertised in old catalogs as the Initiating Bank Second Degree, however, since this name does not appear on the bank it has been felt by present day collectors that the present name is more descriptive and offers more accurate identification.

The Initiating Bank First Degree and Goat, Frog And Old Man are both covered by the same patent. This was issued September 28, 1880 to George W. Eddy of Plainville, Conn. This patent was also assigned to Andrew Turnbull and James A. Swanston, both of New Britain, Conn. They operated under the firm name of The Mechanical Novelty Works and made the Goat, Frog And Old Man as well as a number of other mechanical banks. This concern, of course, also made the Initiating Bank First Degree. The article and information on this mechanical bank appeared in the November, 1952, HOBBIES.

The Goat, Frog And Old Man, like its companion bank, is typical of the times when secret societies and fraternal organizations used a goat in their initiation ceremonies. Both banks employed the use of the same goat with modifications in the original pattern to include the old man astride the goat. The frog is identical on both banks and a similar type mechanism is employed to operate the two banks.

The bank shown was obtained by the writer some years ago in an antique shop in Providence, R.I. It is in excellent condition, completely original, and with good paint. The frog has a green head with an under jaw in yellow and white. The mouth is red and the eyes are a copper bronze color. The figure of the old man is entirely painted the same copper bronze color as the eyes on the frog. The base of the bank, the frog, and the goat are all painted in a dark brown varnish type of finish. There is a gold line around the top and bottom edges of the base to add a finishing touch. While not particularly colorful or lively the painting of the bank is attractive and interesting.

The bank operates as follows: A coin is placed as shown on the tray-like container held in the hands of the old man. The lever located in front of the goat is then pressed and the goat springs forward. At the same time the frog raises on his hind legs so that the coin is deposited in his mouth at the time of contact of the figures. The coin goes through the frog on into the base of the bank. The bank is reset for operation by pulling the goat back and down into the position shown in the picture.

The Goat, Frog, And Old Man is a very interesting bank and rather difficult to find in good original condition. This bank paired up with the Initiating Bank First Degree is a very desirable combination to the mechanical bank collector.

Animated Toy Pistols

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1958

In the period of the 1880's and 1890's the shooting of paper caps and firecrackers on July 4th was a very entertaining as well as noisy method of celebration, entertaining in that there existed in those days some very ingenious cap and firecracker shooting devices which had animated figures in connection with the shooting mechanism. Some were a figure in themselves, others were objects, and then in the majority they were in the form of a pistol with the figures or objects on the barrel of the pistol.

One of the most desirable of all the animated toy pistols is the Just Out Pistol made by Ives in the 1885 period. When the trigger is pulled the rooster pecks at the egg and this fires the cap located where the beak of the rooster hits the egg. At the same time the front part of the egg breaks open and the chick's head pops out. Another very desirable item is the Clown And Mule pistol wherein the mule kicks the clown thereby firing the cap. The mule and clown are on top of the barrel of the pistol. The clown is to the front in a bent knee position. The action is very realistic with the mule rearing up and giving a good kick with his rear legs hitting the clown squarely in the seat of his pants.

Three other very rare animated toy pistols are the Cat, Duck, and Alligator. These three are actually figures in pistol form. The Cat, for example, fires the cap by clamping his extended front paws together. He is in a reclining position and his tail is curved to form the handle, thus the cat is in the form of a pistol. The Duck consists of a curved tree-like formation to form a handle and on top sits the duck. The cap is fired when the duck's bill snaps together. There is a provided trigger to operate the bill, and here again the overall appearance is that of a pistol. In the case of the Alligator the tail is curved down and this forms the grip. When the trigger is pulled the alligator opens and closes his mouth firing the cap. Meanwhile the figure of a colored boy rocks back and forth on the back of the alligator.

There is quite an interesting group of the animated toy pistols and generally speaking Ives was the largest manufacturer, however, J. & E. Stevens and Kenton Hardware, as well as others, were also in this field. They were made of cast iron and are very similar to the mechanical banks. In the banks a coin was used in the operation and in the pistols a cap was employed. One animated pistol, the Clown On Powder Keg, used a firecracker as a means of operation. Here we have a clown seated on a powder keg, both are on top of the barrel of the pistol. A firecracker was placed in the end of the barrel and when lighted and fired the clown was blown off the keg.

The toy pistols under discussion are quite rare and, unlike the mechanical banks, they were made to be played with outdoors. This, of course, added to the likelihood of their being broken, mislaid, lost, and so on. In this respect on a comparison basis many of the animated toy pistols are more difficult to find than the mechanical banks.

There are, of course, a great variety of toy cast iron pistols but it is the animated type that have the greatest interest and desirability. The pistols under discussion and pictured are from the writer's collection. At a later date more detail will be given on the other types and kinds of toy pistols. It is a broad field and cannot be covered in detail in any one article. In addition there are other animated types not mentioned and these will also be covered in a future article.

In closing the writer would like to clarify the fact that it is not his intent to confuse animated toy pistols with mechanical banks nor to infer that they are in the same category. However, both groups have a number of things in common. They are cast iron toys, they were made by the same

companies, they have animated figures in action, and they employ a lever or trigger to start the action.

COVER ILLUSTRATION

The animated pistols shown on the front cover are, starting at the top row going from left to right: Butting Match, Just Out, Surprise Box, Punch & Judy, Bell Ringing Pistol, Duck, Royal Top Spinning Pistol, Humpty Dumpty, Clown On Powder Keg, Sambo, and the Alligator.

Little Moe Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1958

A mechanical bank with a definite flair of politeness is our choice as No. 66 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank, Little Moe, actually tips his hat in the process of receiving a coin. It is one of the bust group of mechanical banks and is one of the most attractive banks in this group.

Little Moe is of English origin having been manufactured by Chamberlin & Hill Ltd. of Walsall, England. Here again it is well to point out that the English were outstanding in the production of the bust type of mechanical bank. They excelled in this phase and produced a greater variety of bust types than were made in our country. This is the only group of which this can be said, however, as mechanical banks in the overall picture are distinctly Americana, and English and other foreign types are only a small percentage of the total. In addition to Little Moe, Chamberlin & Hill also produced the Clown Money Box which is also a bust type and about the size of Little Moe. The Clown is appropriately painted an overall white with other decorations in yellow and either red or blue. He has a peaked hat tilted to the side and is somewhat similar in general appearance to our Humpty Dumpty Bank. Chamberlin & Hill also made other banks and a general line of cast iron novelties, such as hat and coat hooks, trivets, sadiron stands, ink stands, paper weights, letter plates, and household hardware.

The Little Moe shown in the picture turned up in England several years ago and another specimen was found in one of our New England States some time ago. This brings to mind the fact that very few English banks turn up in our country. Transversely, mechanical banks of United States manufacture are not uncommon in England. It is known that quite a few of our banks were exported to England and apparently the opposite is true of the English banks imported into this Country. Of course another factor that has direct bearing on this situation is the vast quantity of mechanical banks made in this country as compared to the limited quantity made in England.

The bank shown is in fine original condition with no repairs. The paint is quite good and the colors are as follows: The coat is red with a white collar and blue tie and buttons. He has brown eyes, red lips, white teeth, and his raised left hand holds a yellow hat. The name "Little Moe Bank" is on the back of the bank and the registration number is shown below the name.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the extended right hand, then a lever located at the rear left shoulder is depressed. As the lever is pressed the right hand raises to the mouth, the tongue recedes, and the coin drops into the mouth. As this action is taking place the left arm moves forward tipping the hat in the polite gesture of thanking the operator for the coin. The eyes also roll back during the operation. Upon releasing the lever the various parts of the figure automatically return to the position shown in the picture. As a point of interest it might be well to explain that the hat is directly fastened to the working mechanism and tilts forward of its own accord. The left arm movement is therefore actually caused by the hat, however, to all appearances the opposite effect is

given.

Little Moe is a very desirable, attractive bank and so far there are three specimens known to exist in private collections.

Acrobat Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1958

A mechanical bank with unusual action is our choice as No. 67 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank, the Acrobat Bank, does have unique operation principles, however, there are two other mechanical banks that would fit into the same category. One, the Clown On Bar, is quite rare, and the other, the Boy on the Trapeze, is more or less common on a comparative basis. These two banks employ the weight of a coin in their respective operation while the Acrobat Bank is entirely different in its operation principle with the weight of the coin having nothing whatsoever to do with the action.

The Acrobat Bank was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut. It was patented April 3, 1883 by Edward L. Morris of Boston, Massachusetts. In the patent papers he refers to the bank as the Gymnast Bank or the Bar Performer Bank. Actually Bar Performer is a more accurate name for the bank, however, it was listed for sale in old Stevens catalogs of the period as the Gymnast Bank. Some of the bank collectors have in more recent years called the bank Two Men On Trapeze, however, the more generally accepted name up to date has been the Acrobat Bank and this seems appropriate enough. It might be well to point out that if the terminology Bar Performer were used as the name of this bank then there would be definite confusion between it, the Clown On Bar, and the Boy On The Trapeze.

The bank shown was obtained by the writer some years ago in New England. It is in excellent original condition with good paint, particularly for this bank. The colors are as follows: The base is dark brown and the four supporting posts are red. The section on top of the posts is blue with white decorations and the platform on which the clown is standing is gray with red outlining at the bottom. The figure of the clown has a red hat and red trousers, a blue shirt and white stockings. The gymnast has red shoes and his red trunks are outlined in blue with a black sash type belt. The rest of the figure is a natural skin color and he has black hair and a very impressive black handlebar type moustache. It is possible that the figure is represented as wearing tights as there is a blue collar-like representation around his neck and a blue line at each wrist.

The bank is pictured ready for operation with the coin in the proper position. The lever to operate is located on the base under the toes of the gymnast. When the lever is pressed the gymnast swings forward and around on the bar and ends up actually standing on his hands. In the process the gymnast's toes hit a protruding section on the clown's shirt, this causes the clown to revolve between the uprights and he ends up standing on his head. The head of the clown contacts a lever located on the platform. Upon contact the lever moves to the side allowing the coin to drop into the bank. To reset the bank the gymnast is first replaced in position and then the clown is turned over to the position shown.

The Acrobat Bank is rather difficult to find in good original condition with no repairs. The operation of the spring arrangement on the gymnast's hands plus the impact when kicking the clown over subjects the arms of the gymnast's figure to severe strain and the bank is often found broken at this point. The interesting action of the bank makes it especially desirable to have in a collection.

Dog Tray Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1958

A very simple but hard to find mechanical bank is our choice as No. 68 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank, the Dog Tray, has the desirable feature of depending upon the weight of the coin to cause its operation. Banks using this principle were in the main designed and patented by John Hall of Watertown, Mass., and manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. John Hall was apparently obsessed with the idea of the coin itself taking part in the action and causing the action to take place. He was noted for Hall's Excelsior (earliest known dated mechanical bank, 1869), Tammany, Lilliput, and the Horse Race Bank. The Dog Tray, however, has an entirely different background and history.

The Dog Tray Bank was patented September 21, 1880, by Louis Kyser and Alfred C. Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., and manufactured by them. A quote from the patent papers is of interest: "Our invention relates to that class of toy money boxes in which the weight of the money to be deposited causes the figure to move; and our invention consists in so balancing a figure of a dog or other animal, sitting upon its haunches, that when a piece of money is placed upon a plate, held in its mouth, the center of gravity is changed and the animal tips over slightly to one side until the money slides off into an opening in the box, and the figure once more regains its original position." So, of course, the main purpose and idea in back of the bank was the principle of the operation caused by the weight of the coin.

The bank shown was obtained some years ago from A. L. Cooper of Dayton, Ohio. It is in extra fine original condition and the paint is also unusually good. The base or building part of the bank is blue and the bottom edge and top of the building are yellow with gold high-lighting. The entrance way, name and date are also in gold. The dog is white and he holds a gold tray in his mouth.

The operation of the bank, as previously mentioned, is quite simple. A coin is placed on the tray held in the dog's mouth, this causes the figure to tilt forward and the coin slides from the tray into the provided slot. The dog then returns to the position shown in the picture.

The bank is made in four main parts, the top, bottom, and two curved sections to form the front and back of the building. The bank is held together by one bolt that clamps the top and bottom onto the two curved sections. This bolt has a round head and two lugs on the bottom. These lugs simply tighten into a slot when the bolt is turned. It is necessary to take the bank apart to remove the coins. The method of fastening this bank together is brought out since it has some bearing on the scarcity of the bank itself. It is not a very secure method of holding the bank together and it is reasonable to assume that with any degree of usage by a child a part could be easily lost or misplaced and subsequently the rest of the bank discarded. The collector of today is fortunate if he can find the Dog Tray Bank in complete original condition.

Calamity Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1958

As we reach No. 69 in our numerical classification of mechanical banks our choice is a bank that has two very desirable features which appeal to the collector of mechanical banks. This bank, the Calamity Bank, has, for one feature, a popular sporting theme and for another an outstanding mechanical action which is rather spectacular. The sporting theme is, of course, football and the clever mechanical action has to do with the ball carrier.

The Calamity Bank shown was obtained by the writer some years ago in Keene, N.H., and it is in fine all around condition. The bank was designed by James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., and patented by him August 29, 1905. It was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. The patent papers covering this bank are worthy of mention since they are of considerable interest. For one thing two sheets of drawings were necessary to cover the gear operating mechanism, the figure positions, and the spring arrangement. The written material outlining the patent covers over two full sheets and considerable detail is given so that realistic action of the figures is assured. It is of further interest to note that the bank as manufactured follows the patent outline practically to the letter. Mr. Bowen, while not as prolific as Charles F. Bailey, was most certainly one of the outstanding mechanical bank designers. He designed and patented the Girl Skipping Rope, and this is one of the finest of the mechanical banks. As a matter of fact the Girl Skipping Rope is about the most mechanical of all the mechanical banks and at the top in action and desirability. He also designed the very early and popular Creedmore Bank in 1877. This was the first of the shooting banks consisting of a figure shooting a gun at a tree. On a section of the base of this bank there appears the wording "Bowen Series" and apparently he had intended to continue with a series of different banks. None of his other known banks, however, have this wording on them. In any event, James Bowen certainly deserves recognition for the fine mechanical banks he so skillfully designed.

The Calamity Bank is painted in attractive colors. All three players have tan uniforms and hats. The two tacklers have red sleeves, red collars, and red socks. The ball carrier has blue sleeves, collar, and socks. The top part of the base is green with considerable outlining and decoration in gold. The words "A Calamity" is also in gold. The front section of the base which holds the coins has red sides outlined in gold.

To operate the bank the players are first placed in the position shown in the picture. A coin is then set in the provided coin slot where it remains until the action of the bank occurs. Upon pressing the operating lever the figures spring into action, each tackler swings around and in on the ball carrier. In turn the ball carrier moves back and tilts forward and all three figures come together so that their heads touch. Thus the ball carrier has been stopped in his tracks by the thorough tackling job of the two tacklers. As the action takes place the coin automatically drops into the base container of the bank. The figures are reset for action by moving the two tacklers into their outside positions. The ball carrier automatically assumes the position as shown in the picture. The figures are motivated by means of a very clever gear arrangement activated by brass springs under tension.

The Calamity bank with its desirable football sporting theme plus the attractive action make it an exceptionally good addition to any collection of mechanical banks.

Mamma Katzenjammer Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1958

A comic or cartoon representation in a mechanical bank is a very unusual item, so unusual in fact, that so far there is only one known type to represent this category. The bank that has this unique position is Mama Katzenjammer, our choice as No. 70 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. As a matter of interest, it is well to point out, that some collectors feel that the Uncle Sam Bank is in the same category as Mama Katzenjammer. This technically speaking is not true, however, as the Uncle Sam Bank is more of a characterization of a national symbol rather than a comic or cartoon type figure. There is too, of course, the Shoot The Chute Bank with the figures

of Buster Brown and Tige riding in the boat. This bank could possibly be classed with Mama Katzenjammer, however, it is not as an overall bank a comic or cartoon representation. Among the still banks there are a number of cartoon or comic strip types including Buster Brown and Tige. In this case, however, the two figures represent the entire bank, and therefore, it would be properly classed in the comic group. Mutt & Jeff would be another still bank example with identical reasons for the same classification.

As a comic strip the Katzenjammer Kids enjoyed wide popularity in the early 1900's and while the kids were the main characters with their various antics and tricks, both Mama Katzenjammer and the Captain were always prominently featured and involved in the proceedings. The Inspector was another character involved with the Kids, and he too, was a target for many of their pranks. The Katzenjammer Kids was originated by Rudolph Dirks in 1897, however, some years later in a change from one newspaper to another he legally lost the right to use the name Katzenjammer Kids for his strip. He then used the name Hans & Fritz, but during World War I, he changed the name to the Captain and The Kids in 1917, and continued with this name for his comic strip. Meantime, for a period of 25 years, Harold Knerr drew the Katzenjammer Kids under the original name. This created an unusual situation whereby there were two comic strips running at the same time, featuring the same characters. In either case, the Mama Katzenjammer Bank was made to be a definite representation of the comic strip itself. As can be seen in the picture, Mama Katzenjammer is characteristically holding each of the Kids apart, and all three figures are exactly reproduced from the strip.

The Mama Katzenjammer Bank shown is in unusually good condition and the writer has always felt fortunate in having a specimen with the original paint in such excellent condition. It was made by the Kenton Hardware Company of Kenton, Ohio, during the period of the early 1900's. It is the only mechanical bank known to have been made by Kenton. They manufactured many still banks in various figure and animal form and also combination safes. They also made top cap pistols, but Kenton is best known for their general line of horse drawn cast iron toys such as fire engines, carriages, and commercial wagons. In this group were some comic toys including Mama Katzenjammer riding in a wagon spanking one of the kids, the Happy Hooligan patrol wagon with the cop hitting Hooligan on the head, and Alphonse & Gaston riding in a wagon.

The operation of the Mama Katzenjammer is simplicity in itself, although it is realistically appropriate. A horizontal coin slot is located in Mama Katzenjammer's back, and when a coin is inserted, she rolls her eyes upward typifying a gesture of discouragement with Hans & Fritz. Her eyes return to the position shown when the coin drops into the bank.

The bank is painted as follows: The faces and hands of all figures are a natural skin color and their mouths are pink and they have blue eyes. Mama Katzenjammer's dress is blue and she has black shoes. One boy has a yellow shirt with white collar, red trousers, white socks, and black shoes. The other boy has a red shirt with a white collar and large black tie. His trousers are yellow, and he also has white socks and black shoes. It is a very colorful bank and this lends to an attractive appearance.

The unique comic subject angle plus the fact it is rather difficult to find an original specimen in good condition, add to the desirability of having a Mama Katzenjammer Bank in a collection.

[Mechanical Bank Collectors Convention](#)
by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1959

A rather unique event, at least for some of the mechanical bank collectors, occurred on Saturday, September 27, 1958, in Rhode Island. This occasion was the first general get together of a group of the mechanical bank collectors and the sponsor of the event was the Antique Bank Collectors of Rhode Island, a collectors club that was established in 1951.

A number of collectors, including the writer, who came from distant points arrived on Friday night and stayed at the Bob Bean Motel in Wickford, R.I. This turned out to be a very pleasant spot to stay and on Saturday morning there was a good deal of activity among the collectors present, exchanging ideas, getting acquainted, and so on.

The schedule for the day and evening was an active one and exceptionally well planned and organized by E.T. Richards, the President of the Antique Bank Collectors of Rhode Island. The first event on the agenda was a social hour held at "Hedgerow," the very attractive and spacious home of the E.T. Richards in Peace Dale, Rhode Island. They have a fine representative collection of mechanical banks and these are well displayed throughout the first floor section of their home. They have some in the sun room, the den, and the dining room. In the large living room two mechanical banks are used as attractive lamp displays. The lamp bases are made so that various different mechanical banks can be shown from time to time. All in all a very nice effect is obtained by the way the Richards have their mechanical banks arranged and the writer felt that a very pleasant atmosphere was created by having mechanical banks in whatever room one happened to be in.

After the social hour the group gathered in the main sitting room and Mark Haber gave a talk entitled "Mechanical Bank Prices,—Past, Present and Future." He had prepared a very well planned speech on the subject which offered much food for thought. Everyone found his talk stimulating and an interesting question and answer period followed.

Several collectors had been asked to bring some favorite or rare bank or two with them to the affair, and after Mr. Haber's excellent talk the writer discussed and explained these banks. The banks certainly bear mention since they were a very interesting and important part of the activity. William Roup brought along his rare Preacher in the Pulpit, Clown Bank, and the Presto. M.C. Manlove had his Red Riding Hood with him, and this is the finest specimen of this bank the writer has seen to date. Two rare pattern banks, the Wishbone Bank and Aunt Dina and the Fairy, were a couple of favorites that L.C. Hegarty picked out for the occasion. The writer brought three banks from his collection, The Old Woman in the Shoe, Jonah and the Whale (Jonah Emerges), and John Bull's Money Box. Norman O. Weil had a Calamity Bank in the original box, and needless to say, the bank was in unusually fine condition. It is a rare occasion to find a bank such as this in the original container.

Some of the leading dealers in mechanical banks attended the meeting and they brought along various banks to sell. The dealers exhibiting banks were: Frank Ball, Mark Haber, and David Hollander. This, of course was another feature that added interest to the affair. George Bauer was also in attendance and he not only deals in mechanical banks but is also well known for his excellent repair work.

After the activities held in the Richard's home the meeting was resumed at the Larchwood Inn in Wakefield, R.I. Here the first item on the agenda consisted of a cocktail hour followed by the evening session. A nice dinner started the session and favors were provided for everyone attending. The men received clever barber pole banks and the ladies received either a cat or a dog bank and in all cases each bank had a plastic plaque identifying it with the convention. In the private dining room where the dinner and meeting was held Hubert B. Whiting had a display of some of the still banks from his collection. Outstanding were the Seal, the Rhinoceros, the Three Monkeys, the Bull

and Bear, and a number of other fine rarities.

After the banquet the speaker of the evening was the writer. He spoke on mechanical banks in general and on recasts, fakes and reproductions in particular. A question and answer period was held after the writer's talk and this brought out many interesting discussions. After this a business meeting was held wherein the foundation was set up for a mechanical bank collectors club on a national scale. A board of directors was established and tentative plans were made to hold the next convention in Pittsburgh, Pa., probably some time in September, 1959.

Following is a list of people who attended this first general convention of the mechanical bank collectors: Mark Haber, Wethersfield, Conn.; Mr. & Mrs. Frank L. Ball, Cambridge, Mass.; Andrew C. Bain, Warwick, R.I.; George W. Bauer, Pottstown, Pa.; Oliver I. Clark, Bloomfield, Conn.; Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hall, Milford, Dela.; Mr. & Mrs. L.C. Hegarty, Coalport, Pa.; Mr. & Mrs. David Hollander, Yonkers, N.Y.; C.R. Howell, Elmhurst, Ill.; Frederick L. Macalister, Rehoboth, Mass.; Mr. & Mrs. M.C. Manlove, Seaford, Dela.; Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Perkins, Palmer, Mass.; Mr. & Mrs. William H. Roup, Pottstown, Pa.; Rudolph A. Salvatore, Providence, R.I.; Mr. & Mrs. Normal O. Weil, Tuckahoe, N.Y.; Mr. & Mrs. Hubert B. Whiting, Wakefield, Mass.; Mr. & Mrs. Edward T. Richards, "Hedgerow," Peace Dale, R.I.

Lion Hunter Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1959

The thoughts of Africa, wild game and lion hunting certainly have a direct appeal to most men and therein lies the particularly desirable subject matter of the mechanical bank picked as No. 71 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank, The Lion Hunter, as seen in the picture, truly depicts the intrepid wild game hunter about to shoot the lion.

The bank was designed and patented by C.A. Bailey, August 22, 1911. In this case Bailey covered the bank by a design patent and he claimed coverage for the ornamental designing of the bank itself. It is a large size bank and quite attractive and showy. There has always existed some conjectures as to whether or not the figure of the hunter represented Teddy Roosevelt. It is well to mention that Bailey also patented and designed the well known Teddy and the Bear Bank and the figure of the hunter on this bank does, of course, represent Teddy Roosevelt. As to the figure on the Lion Hunter, while there is some resemblance to T.R., it is the writer's opinion that it is not intended to represent him. Based on the design picture of the Lion Hunter Bank furnished by Bailey to the Patent Office it was not his intention that the figure of the hunter represent Roosevelt. In any event, Bailey amply protected the bank by the design patent and it was put into production and manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut.

The bank shown is in just about as fine condition as it is possible to find a bank. It has been in the writer's collection for some years and was obtained from an antique dealer in New England. The paint and decorative effects are in excellent condition. For one thing the rock-like formations on the bank still have the original mica or silica like finish that was originally applied to give a realistic appearance to the rocks. The overall base of the bank is painted a greenish gold and the foliage is highlighted in bronze and shades of gold. The hunter has a tan uniform and gray hat. His puttees are green with gold buttons and his cartridge belt is also gold. His silver gun has a maroon butt and his hands and face are flesh toned. The lion is brown and his open red mouth displays large white teeth. The bank, while not bright as to coloring, is actually a very showy handsome piece and, as mentioned before, quite realistic.

The action of the bank is rather clever. The shooting device on the barrel of the gun is pulled back and cocked into position. In so doing the hunter's head snaps into aiming position. A coin is then placed on the barrel of the gun as shown in the picture. The lever, located between the hunter and the lion, is then pressed and the hunter's head snaps back and the coin is fired toward the lion. The lion in turn rears back on his haunches and the coin is deflected into the receptacle which is located under the lion. Upon releasing the lever the lion returns to the position shown in the picture. The gun is so constructed that a paper cap may be used in the operation, thus providing a realistic noise to accompany the firing of the gun.

The Lion Hunter is an excellent example of a mechanical bank. Its good action and fine appearance make it a "must" item for the collector of mechanical banks.

Horse Race Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1959

The designer of the earliest known dated cast iron mechanical bank comes to the fore as we reach the present point in the numerical classification articles. The designer is John Hall and the earliest known dated cast iron mechanical bank is the Halls Excelsior. He also designed the Horse Race Bank which is our choice as No. 72 in the series.

The Horse Race Bank was patented by John Hall August 15, 1871, just two years after the Halls Excelsior which was patented December 21, 1869. The Horse Race is the most outstanding mechanical bank designed by Hall and to today's collector it is the rarest and most desirable of his banks. John Hall lived in Watertown, Mass., and all his mechanical banks, including the Horse Race, were made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. Apparently, he was completely absorbed with the idea that the weight of a coin should cause the action to occur and this is borne out by the fact that all his mechanical banks operate on this principle. Three of Hall's banks undoubtedly sold in greater quantities and enjoyed a longer period of popularity than any of the other mechanical banks. These were the Excelsior, Tammany, and Lilliput. They are among the earliest known mechanical banks, but today they are still relatively common. This, of course, is due to the fact they were made in larger quantities over a number of years.

The Horse Race shown is in excellent original condition and has been in the writer's collection for some years. It was purchased by the writer in an antique shop in Worcester, Mass. The paint is exceptionally fine and the colors are as follows: The lattice base and scroll work top are bright red; the circular rim of the top is white, and the two arches are also white with blue outlining. The colored boy is black with red striped white trunks and a red striped white rimmed turban. Beside the colored boy is a white rectangular box-like coin slot with blue and red decorations. One horse is brown and the rider has a red shirt and yellow trousers. The other horse is white and the rider has a blue shirt and red trousers. The reins, the mane, and the tail of each horse is done in black. On the scroll work top appears the wording "Patented August 15, 1871," and this is painted blue. The archways on the round base are painted yellow and the word "Bank" over each archway is in blue.

The Horse Race Bank when originally sold through toy stores, jobbers, and other outlets came with printed instructions as to its operation. These instructions were on a rectangular piece of paper that fitted in a space provided on the top of the bank. This section, which has round perforations, can be seen in the picture between the word "Patented" and the date.

The operation of the bank is unique and quite interesting. The string with the small bead on the end is first pulled out and the pulley like wheel with the lug revolves as this is done. This pulley

can be seen in the picture. As the operator pulls the string another string fastened to a long flat spring inside the bank is wound onto the pulley putting tension on the spring. A lever snaps into place holding the pulley with tension on the spring and this lever extends under the section where the coin is dropped. Both horses are then placed into position beside a star on the base which is located to the right of the colored boy. When the horses are placed in this position the extended balanced arm section of each horse is located just to the front of the lug on the pulley. A coin is then dropped in the provided slot as shown in the picture. The weight of the coin trips the lever and activates the spring which causes the pulley to snap around. The lug on the pulley hits the extended arms and causes the horses to speed around the track at a lively pace.

The Horse Race Bank has excellent action and the fact that the weight of the coin causes the action is a very desirable feature. In closing it is well to mention that the bank is entirely cast iron with the exception of the tin horses and their respective arm extensions. It is a hard bank to find in good complete original condition and a favorite among the collectors of mechanical banks.

Tank and Cannon Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1959

Historical mechanical banks are always of great interest and as we reach No. 73 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks we have chosen a bank that well represents a period of our history. The bank is the Tank And Cannon and it represents two lethal items of World War I. This bank and possibly the Called Out Bank (HOBBIES, October, 1955) are the only known mechanical banks with a World War I theme. There are, of course, other mechanical banks that employed the theme of a specific war as their subject matter. One was the U.S. And Spain Bank (HOBBIES, June, 1954) which had its connection with the Spanish-American War, and another is the Octagonal Fort Bank (HOBBIES, August, 1954) which is a Civil War Commemorative item.

The Tank And Cannon Bank was patented May 4, 1920 by Robert Eastwood Starkie and Nellie Starkie of Burnley, Lancaster, England. Their application was filed May 12, 1919. The bank as actually manufactured closely follows the descriptive matter contained in the patent papers along with the accompanying diagram. So far the actual concern that made the bank is unknown and this may well remain so. The writer has spent considerable time on research on the Starkie's but to little avail. While we have knowledge of various banks that the Starkie's patented so far no information has been available as to any concern in England who actually made the banks. The Tank And Cannon Bank was unquestionably made in England and protected in this Country by the patent papers previously mentioned.

The bank shown is in good condition and was obtained through the help of Frank Ball of Cambridge, Mass. He, of course, is the well known dean of dealers in mechanical banks and toys. Mr. Ball obtained the bank through a party who had originally found it in England. The paint is in pretty fair condition and it is simply an overall silver type paint. The bank is inclined to be a little crude in its construction as compared with the standards of those made in our Country. It is quite heavy and the castings are rather thick. It's likely that circumstances surrounding the time and place of manufacture were a factor, however, a number of the English banks seem to have been produced with less care than was used in the manufacture of the American made banks.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the flat surface end of the barrel of the cannon after the plunger firing mechanism is pulled back. Upon releasing the plunger the coin is fired into the tank. There is no coin trap and the coins can be removed only by taking off one side of the tank which is

held in place by a screw. Both the cannon and the tank are somewhat adjustable so that the firing of the coin can be more or less a matter of skill. This is accomplished by means of adjusting the respective screws that hold the tank and cannon in place on the base.

Previously it was mentioned that the Tank And Cannon and possibly the Called Out Bank were the only mechanical banks to commemorate World War I. It might be well to point out that another patent was issued on a mechanical bank that would come into the World War I category. On February 17, 1920, Chester A. Herle of Rochester, N.Y., patented a bank that represented Uncle Sam knocking out the Kaiser. This was to have a chute-like arrangement whereby the weight of the coin tripped the lever which caused Uncle Sam's arm to punch the Kaiser in the jaw. The head of the Kaiser in turn fell back. No examples of this bank have ever been found, however, and it is doubtful that it was ever manufactured.

In summing up, the Tank And Cannon Bank is a very interesting example of a historical English bank and so far there are only two or possibly three known to have been found to date.

Time Is Money Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1959

A mechanical bank that more or less disrupts the permanency of a classification setup is our choice as No. 74 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank is the *Time Is Money Bank* and undoubtedly it belongs somewhat further up in the listing than the present position assigned to it. Unfortunately circumstances of this nature can occasionally occur by the finding of some heretofore unknown mechanical bank. Also there is always the possibility of a Coasting Bank or a Tommy Bank being found. These are two examples of banks that are known to have been made but to date no specimens have ever been discovered. The Time Is Money Bank more or less fits into this latter category.

The Bank shown is in fine original condition and until the circumstances surrounding the recent occasion of the writer obtaining the bank he had never seen one before. The name of this bank has appeared in some listings and there is said to be another specimen in a collection that has lain dormant for some years. Other than this, to the best of the writer's knowledge, nothing is known about the Time Is Money Bank.

The bank was found in central Pennsylvania through the good help of an antique dealer. Unfortunately there is no information as to the original source of the bank and nothing could be learned of its origin or background. There, however, is no question but that the concern that made the Bow-ery Bank also produced the Time Is Money Bank. Here again, like the Bow-ery, Time Is Money has no markings, patent dates or any identifying features that lead to any particular concern or individual who made banks. The bank has the same general outline form as the Bow-ery and the back half of each is alike. There is a third bank known that was unquestionably made by the same concern or individual and this is the Chronometer Bank. Here the resemblance with Time Is Money Bank is practically the same, however, the operation and mechanism are entirely different. The Chronometer Bank is known to have been made and sold in 1876 as it appeared in an advertisement in Ehrich's Fashion Quarterly for the Winter of 1876. The Time Is Money Bank and Chronometer have the same early type of representation of Father Time and it's fairly safe to assume that Time Is Money was made in the 1875-1880 period. The Chronometer Bank, strictly speaking, is a registering bank and is classed in this category, while the Time Is Money is an actual mechanical bank.

As mentioned above, the bank shown is in fine original condition with good paint. The base ledge, the protruding ledge above the lettering and the top scroll peak are painted red. The lettering and some decoration and outlining are all done in gold. The circular section which represents a large coin with Father Time thereon is a silver color. The rest of the bank is done in an overall japanned type of finish with some highlighting of red in the fluted sections of the sides.

The operation of the bank is quite simple but very effective and unusual. The bank is shown in the picture ready for operation. When a coin is dropped into the provided slot in the top of the bank the large coin section with Father Time spins around to the left and snaps into position after making slightly under a complete revolution. The weight of the coin trips the necessary lever inside the bank to cause this action. The necessity of using a coin plus the fact that the weight of the coin causes the action are both very desirable features. The bank is re-set for operation by turning the coin-like dial clockwise until it snaps into the position shown in the picture. A small brass knob is provided for the purpose of re-setting the dial.

Some points of interest are provided in the large coin-like dial section. Father Time himself is depicted as people visualized him in the period of the 1880's and he somewhat resembles the devil. He is turning the back of an Indian head cent by means of a crank or lever. Also shown are a shield and an hour glass. The general theme of the bank is quite appropriate—time passes rapidly or spins by so save your money before it's too late.

The Time Is Money Bank is certainly an interesting early mechanical bank and it well represents the object lesson to save your money. The action is quite different than any of the other mechanical banks and it makes a desirable addition to a collection.

Builder of Safes and Bank Vaults **Collects Mechanical Banks**

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1959

The massive vaults that protect the nation's gold supply at Fort Knox and a collection of antique mechanical penny banks have a common bond.

Edwin H. Mosler, Jr., president of the 109-year-old Mosler Safe Company—the firm that built the Fort Knox vaults—is a collector of penny banks. He owns one of the few remaining originals of the famous Ferris Wheel model, commemorating the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, where the first ferris wheel was introduced.

Mechanical penny banks date back to the late 1800's when lessons in thrift were a common practice in American homes. To encourage this trait in children, artisans designed original penny banks, which were cast in iron or brass. Once an original design had been cast, the sand molds were destroyed. After casting, the banks were hand-painted and decorated with all the care and imagination of a work of art. While they cost only a few dollars in the 1880's, today many of them are worth hundreds of dollars.

The earlier models generally attempted to depict humorous situations such as a boy being butted by a buffalo, or a boy caught stealing a watermelon. Later, politics, social phenomena and national events inspired designs.

Typical was the so-called "*Tammany Penny Bank*," showing Tammany Boss Tweed pocketing pennies and nodding his thanks.

The Mosler collection contains some of the rarer specimens of antique mechanical penny banks.

Butting Buffalo Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1959

An animal that played a very important part in the founding of the Western part of our country is the subject of our choice as the 75th mechanical bank in the numerical classification. The animal is the buffalo and as a provider of meat for the Pioneer, as well as the Indian, he was unsurpassed. As a matter of fact the buffalo was the main source of meat for the Indians and then at a later date the buffalo hunters came along and over a period of time they slaughtered so many that the buffalo almost became extinct. The bank chosen as No. 75 is the Butting Buffalo Bank and the figure of the buffalo thereon well represents this former roamer of the western plains.

The bank pictured was obtained by the writer a number of years ago from a New England antique dealer. It is in excellent condition and completely original. The bank was patented March 20, 1888 by Alfred C. Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., and manufactured by Kyser & Rex of the same city. It represents the figure of a buffalo in the act of butting a boy who is climbing a tree in order to reach an animal in the top of the stump. For some years the animal in the top of the stump was thought to be a small bear, however, the patent papers clarify this as follows: "In the bank illustrated in the drawing I (Rex) have shown the casing in the form of a piece of ground and the stump of a tree, from the top of which is pivoted the representation of a raccoon, and to the side of the tree is pivoted the representation of a boy in the act of climbing up the tree after the raccoon. In the rear of the boy is a horned animal (buffalo) in the act of butting the boy and assisting him up the tree as shown." This quote from the original patent papers leaves no doubt but that the figure of the animal in the stump definitely represents a raccoon.

The paint on the bank shown is in fine condition and the colors are as follows: The base or ground-like section is an overall green with highlightings of red and yellow. The tree stump is brown and green with bronze color vine-like leaves going up the sides. The buffalo is an overall brown with highlights done in silver, and his horns are also silver. The boy has yellow trousers, a red shirt, and a blue hat. The raccoon is black with silver highlights.

To operate the bank a coin is first placed in the provided slot in the top of the tree trunk to the rear of the raccoon. The coin stays in position until the bank is operated. The lever shown is then depressed and in so doing the buffalo raises his head butting the boy. The boy moves up the trunk and as he does so the raccoon withdraws back into the stump and the coin drops inside the stump and on into the base. Upon releasing the lever the figures automatically return to the positions shown in the picture. It might be well to point out that the coin rests on a small lug which blocks the coin slot inside the stump. This lug is part of and fastened to the raccoon. As the raccoon withdraws the lug moves down and forward allowing the coin to fall into the bank. As has been mentioned in past articles, this type of action where the coin is automatically deposited by the operation of the mechanism is a desirable feature.

The Butting Buffalo Bank is a very attractive mechanical bank with interesting action. It makes a nice addition to a collection and is somewhat difficult to find in completely original state.

Chimpanzee Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1959

The only mechanical bank to feature an ape is our choice as No. 76 in the numerical classification. This bank is the Chimpanzee Bank and strictly defined as an ape it is in a class of its

own, however, in the broad definition the bank fits into the monkey group of mechanical banks. This group, by the way, comprises some very interesting mechanical banks. There are the four types of Organ Bank, all of which ring bells in their operation; then there is the rare Monkey Bank (HOBBIES, April, 1958), as well as the elusive, hard to find Little Jocko Musical Bank wherein music is played during the operation of the bank. Two other rather rare items in the monkey group are the foreign made Monkey With Tray and Monkey and Parrot. Then, of course, there is the late, rather common Hubley item, The Monkey and Organ Grinder (Monkey Bank), as well as the desirable Lion and Two Monkeys made by Kyser & Rex. And last, but not least, is one of the outstanding banks in the group, The Monkey and Coconut made by J. & E. Stevens Company. The Chimpanzee Bank can, if the collector so chooses, also be classed in the group of house or building type mechanical banks. This is merely a matter of choice or opinion.

The Chimpanzee Bank was patented September 21, 1880, by L. Kyser and A.C. Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., and also manufactured by them under the company name of Kyser & Rex of the same city. The bank as produced closely follows the patent papers and the accompanying drawings. One of the desirable features of the bank is the fact that a coin operates the mechanism and this feature is well covered in the patent papers as follows: "Our invention relates to toy money-boxes in which the insertion of a piece of money causes the figure attached to and forming part of the toy to move; and our invention consists in so constructing the toy that no money can be deposited within the box without first causing a figure to move its head and hand, and, if desired, its whole body, and act as though recording the amount of the deposit in a book which lies open before it, and upon the passage of the money into the box the figure resumes its upright position again, and at the same time it causes a bell to be struck, indicating that it is ready for the next deposit." Also in the patent papers it is interesting to note that the word "monkey" is used in reference to the figure.

The bank shown was obtained by the writer some years ago through the good help of Robert Beveridge of Albany, N.Y. It is completely original with no repairs and the paint is in excellent condition. The colors are as follows: The building is an overall light green with a red base, the windows are outlined in gold, and the tin inner lining of the larger lower windows is painted a light red. The top peak and the archway over the monkey are in red and the lettering of the name is done in gold. The domed perforated section in back of the monkey is white as are the open pages of the book in front of the monkey. The edges of the pages and the covers of the book are gold, the desk or table-like section is brown. The monkey has a blue jacket, white shirt, and his hands and face are brown.

To operate the bank a coin is inserted in the provided slot located to the front of the figure. In inserting the coin it is necessary that a lever across the slot be pushed to the rear by the coin itself. This causes the head of the monkey to nod forward and at the same time his right arm and hand move down on the open book as though noting the deposit thereon. A bell also rings during this action as a finishing touch. The coin is released into the bank and the figure returns to the position as shown in the picture ready again for action.

The Chimpanzee Bank is rather difficult to find in good original condition. It is an attractive item and also has the desirable feature of the coin operated action, thereby making it a fine addition to a collection of mechanical banks.

Perfection Registering Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1959

Little girls who are sugar and spice and everything nice are well represented in some of the mechanical banks. As a matter of fact several fine banks were intentionally made to have more appeal to girls rather than boys. Examples are The Old Woman In The Shoe, Red Riding Hood, Girl Skipping Rope, Girl In Victorian Chair, and the Speaking Dog Bank. Another example of this group, the Perfection Registering Bank, is our choice as No. 77 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks.

The Perfection Registering Bank is as the name implies a registering bank, and therefore, can also be classed in with the registering banks. However, it is definitely a mechanical bank since the figure of the girl moves down the track as coins are inserted and the operating lever pressed.

The exact date or period of manufacture of the bank is not known and the base plate only shows the terminology "Patent Applied For." To the best of the writer's knowledge no patent papers have ever been found. However, it is the writer's opinion that it is definitely a product of the well known bank designer, C.F. Bailey, and was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. As can be seen in the picture the bank is a fine example of Bailey's artistry in using flowers, animals, and figures in the general design. This is typical of Bailey's work and many of his banks show this extra care and detail in their makeup. This, of course, required more time and effort in making the original pattern, however, the end result was a more interesting, attractive, detailed mechanical bank.

The bank shown is in fine original condition with excellent paint, and as a matter of fact could be called mint condition. It is in the extensive collection of Mr. L.C. Hegarty and was originally in the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby. The bank is attractively decorated in an all over light tan color, all figures and decorations are highlighted in gold. The figure of the soldier is completely gold and the girl has blond hair, a red belt, and a brown smock. There is red highlighting on the end of the bank facing the girl. The numbered section along the back of the bank where the amount of the deposit is shown is a dark blue-black paper printed with gold numbers and lines. The name of the bank is also printed in gold on this paper section. The newsboy embossed on the front has a newspaper under his left arm titled "Sun." On the right end of the bank there is a large embossed cat's head and this complete end opens for the removal of coins. The birds, flowers, and other decorations are shown in the picture.

To operate the bank a dime is inserted in the provided slot located in the front top edge of the left end section of the bank. A lever located in this same end section is then pressed. In so doing the girl moves forward and the pointer in her right hand indicates the amount now in the bank. It might be well to point out that the operating lever is inside the protruding curved-out section on the left end of the bank as shown in the picture. It is of interest to note that the lever makes no contact with the operating mechanism until the insertion of a coin.

The Perfection Registering Bank is a difficult item to add to a collection as it was apparently never made in any great quantities. This, plus the fact, that it is a very attractive bank appearance-wise makes it a nice addition to a collection of mechanical banks.

Winner Savings Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1959

Horse racing, the so called Sport of Kings, again comes to the fore as we reach No. 78 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. The Winner Savings Bank is our choice to occupy this position and its operating theme centers around a horse race. Another mechanical bank

has the same subject matter and this is the Horse Race Bank which appeared in the series as No. 72, HOBBIES, March, 1959.

The Winner Savings Bank was patented April 23, 1895, by Alfred A.R. Berger of New York City, N.Y., and manufactured by Berger & Medan Manufacturers of the same city. The patent papers as issued to Berger are very specific as to the operation of the bank and thoroughly cover the fact that the horses can finish in any number of positions at the completion of each race. This as outlined in the patent papers is accomplished by means of spacer washers on the central operating shaft that cause the factor of friction to be the motivating force.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of L.C. Hegarty. It is in what may be called mint condition, completely original, no repairs, and excellent paint. The bank is an overall light bluish green. The first part of the name "The Winner" is in gold with red outlining and "Savings Bank" is in gold with green outlining. The scroll work and decorations are in green. The horses on the front and side are a reddish brown. There is a large gold and red horseshoe on the back and the name of the manufacturer "Berger & Medan" is printed thereon. The following is also printed on the back: "Directions. Pull out rod, insert either a one, five, or ten cent piece in slot then push in rod." Opposite this appears this statement: "To take out contents remove cover in the bottom of the bank." All the aforementioned printing is in green. In each corner of the top there is a gold horseshoe with a red riding whip through each shoe. The round raised rim on top, the top edge, and the bottom edge are in gold with green scroll decorations. The inside base under the round glass top is tan. The six horses in this glassed-in top section are on the ends of three flat strips which revolve on a central axle. The horses are white, black, pink, yellow, tan, and gray. The riders have different color coats, caps, and riding breeches in red, green, blue, yellow, and pink.

To operate the bank the directions as shown on the back are followed and the horses spin around and around until an eventual winner stops near the finish point marker. The bank is operative only when a coin is used and this, of course, is a desirable feature.

The bank is made of tin and it is 5" square, 4" high, and the round top is 4¼" in diameter. It seems to be a very difficult item to add to a collection as so far only a few are known to exist. It's a colorful item with its attractive decorations and makes a nice addition to a collection of mechanical banks.

[Second Annual Convention of the Mechanical Bank Collectors of America](#) by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1959

The second annual convention of the Mechanical Bank Collectors of America was held Saturday, September 19, 1959, at the Edgewood Country Club in Pittsburgh, Pa. The club is scenically located in the Eastern suburban section of Pittsburgh.

The day's program got under way around noon time with a registration and social hour. The convention was then called to order and F.L. Ball gave an entertaining talk on his experiences in collecting and dealing in mechanical banks. Naturally, Mr. Ball is well qualified to discuss this subject as he is one of the pioneers in this field. His talk was interesting and enlightening and everyone present enjoyed it. Mr. Ball's talk was followed by another social period and the serving of light sandwiches and refreshments. Mark Haber was the next speaker on the agenda and his talk had to do with mechanical banks that reflected historical significance. Mr. Haber used his usual thorough precise approach to the subject and his presentation was well received by the members

present.

Following Mr. Haber's talk a short business meeting was held and the new by-laws as drawn up by E.T. Richards were distributed to the group. Also several committees were appointed to further the interests of the organization. The afternoon session was then terminated.

It might be well to mention at this point that some of the dealer members brought along some mechanical banks to sell and these were nicely displayed on provided tables. Those bringing banks to sell were Frank L. Ball, David Hollander, and Mark Haber. A high point of this phase of the convention was the purchase of the Ducky Fisherman Bank by Mrs. Mary Gerken from Mr. Hollander. A number of mechanical banks were sold by each of the dealer members present and they are to be commended for the quality and variety of the items they had for sale.

The evening session started with a cocktail hour followed by the formal evening banquet. After this the writer, who was the speaker for the evening, gave a talk on English and foreign made mechanical banks. He then discussed several of the rarities brought to the convention by their respective owners. These included the Turtle Bank recently acquired by the writer and the Chinaman In Boat recently obtained by Mr. Richards. The writer then conducted an open question and answer period. Directly following this the formal evening business session was called to order and E.T. Richards did an excellent job of handling the meeting. By-laws were adopted, officers and directors were elected, dues were established, the new insignia pin was adopted and the name of the organization officially established as Mechanical Bank Collectors of America. E.T. Richards was elected President for the coming year and F.L. Ball was elected Secretary-Treasurer. At the termination of the meeting it was decided that the third annual convention will be held between September 10 and October 10, 1960 in the vicinity of White Plains, N.Y.

Several points of interest bear mention. There was a nice display of shooting mechanical banks presented by the Rhode Island group of mechanical bank collectors, and a number of historical banks were on hand to go along with Mr. Haber's talk. Also it was a real pleasure to have Mrs. Leon Cameto and John D. Meyer present at the affair. Mrs. Cameto's late husband, Leon Cameto, was an avid and a leading collector of mechanical banks, as well as being a close personal friend of the writer. John Meyer, of course, is one of the pioneer collectors of mechanical banks.

The writer would like to suggest that seriously interested collectors of mechanical banks contact Mr. Ball or the writer should they have an interest in or a desire to join the club. In closing the writer would like to mention the fact that the convention was a very successful affair and all present expressed their approval and enjoyment of the activities.

Reclining Chinaman Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1959

A mechanical bank that is another anti-Chinese item is our choice as No. 79 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This is the Reclining Chinaman and it is a very appropriately named, attractive mechanical bank. In referring to the bank as another anti-Chinese item it is well to point out that two other mechanical banks with this theme have previously appeared in the series of articles. The first of these was the rare Chinaman In Boat (HOBBIES, May, 1955), and please refer to this article for coverage on the reasons for anti-Chinese feeling that existed in the period. The second mechanical bank with the same theme was Shoot That Hat Bank (HOBBIES, November, 1957).

The Reclining Chinaman was patented by James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., August 8, 1882,

and manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. In this case the patent papers covering the bank are of particular interest since they also apply to the Frog Bank and, as a matter of fact, the drawings accompanying the papers picture the Frog Bank. However, the Reclining Chinaman and the Frog Bank have the same type operating mechanism and this is the salient feature covered in the patent. The following quote from the papers bears out the fact of the original intent of the patent being used to cover more than one type mechanical bank. "The savings bank herein described may be made in the image of living beings of any kind and character or of any other desired shape." Also covered is the fact that the coin receiving arrangement may be in a different form or shape. In any event, it is a little unusual to have two different mechanical banks covered by the same patent papers.

The bank shown is in fine original condition and was added to the writer's collection some years ago through the good help of a New England antique dealer. The paint is in an unusually nice state of preservation. The log is a reddish brown and the mouse coming out of the end of this log is gray with beady black eyes. The Chinaman has a dark purple smock, blue trousers, white socks, and black shoes with white soles. The arms, hands, and face of the Chinaman are flesh color and he has black hair with a long black queue. The drapery effect on which his head rests is blue with yellow fringe. In his right hand are five playing cards with reddish brown backs. From the front, when exposed, only four cards show. These are the respective aces and they have white backgrounds with the spade and club in black and the diamond and heart in red.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the pocket section of the Chinaman's smock, then a lever located in the right end of the log is depressed. Simultaneously the left arm raises the left hand to the face as the right arm moves forward exposing the hand of cards. The hands are made to be movable and they fall into their respective positions very realistically. As the action takes place the coin automatically drops through the pocket into the bank.

As an anti-Chinese item the object lesson behind the above mentioned action simply was the fact that the Chinaman holds all the aces and couldn't lose. As previously mentioned, it is a very attractive bank with realistic action and makes a nice addition to a collection.

Darky Fisherman Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1960

It is always a real pleasure to report the existence of a heretofore unknown mechanical bank since it offers each and every collector in the field a new challenge and the possibility of a new addition to his own collection. A discovery of this kind seemingly throws the numerical classification out of order since we have reached No. 80 in the series articles and, of course, a very rare desirable mechanical bank such as the previously unknown "Darky Fisherman Bank" logically deserves a higher rating. It is necessary, however, to maintain some order and conformity in our series of articles. With this in mind the writer decided some time ago after due consideration that any mechanical bank under the above circumstances would be assigned a number at the time, subject to change at some future date. Therefore the Darky Fisherman Bank will be No. 80 in our numerical classification even though it actually should be higher up in the listing. A comparable situation occurred with the Time Is Money Bank (HOBBIES, May, 1959) and undoubtedly will occur again in the future.

The Darky Fisherman Bank is in the very fine collection of Mrs. Mary Gerken of Allison Park, Pa. Mrs. Gerken is an avid collector and has been interested in mechanical banks for a number of

years. She enjoys her hobby thoroughly and has an excellent collection including some of the top rarities. Mrs. Gerken obtained the Darcy Fisherman Bank from David Hollander at the recent Mechanical Bank Collectors Convention (HOBBIES, November, 1959). Mr. Hollander deserves due credit for his unusual find. He is one of the pioneers as a dealer in mechanical banks and in recent years handled the sale of the various banks in the well known Chrysler collection.

The bank is in fine condition with good original paint. Some object may have originally hung from the end of the fishing pole and if this is the case it is missing. According to Mr. Hollander the original owner claims that a fish hung from the pole and this seems logical enough. However, it is possible that some sort of an incongruous or comic type of object may have hung there. In the writer's opinion Charles A. Bailey unquestionably made the bank. There are no markings, patent dates, or other means of identification on the bank, however, every part and piece shows Bailey's meticulous workmanship. It is the writer's further opinion that the bank was made during the period of 1880 to 1885 and that Bailey designed, produced, and manufactured it himself in his shop in Cobalt, Conn. The material and workmanship are the same as his Springing Cat (HOBBIES, September, 1952), Chinaman In Boat (HOBBIES, May, 1955), and Baby Elephant Bank Unlocks At X O'Clock (HOBBIES, June, 1956).

There is some wording on the bank and this is in raised letters across the base just to the front of the boy's feet. The statement "Dis Pond Am De Boss Place To Fish" appears here. Flowers and foliage are also designed in this section around the boy's feet, the lettering, and on up to the edge of the pond. The flowers are red and the entire base including the pond is silver with small frogs around the pond. The boy's legs, arms, and face are black. He has large white eyes and a large red lipped mouth. His trousers are yellow with a blue patch on the right leg and a red patch on the left leg. There is a large red patch on the seat of his trousers. He has a blue jacket with a red shirt. His cap is sectioned on the top in red, blue and yellow, and the visor is black. The boy holds a wire fishing pole in his right hand and this pole has a loop on the end. The looped end rests in a slot in the pond and this slot runs part way into the coin section located at the end of the pond. The loop end of the pole thus passes through part of this coin section which is painted red.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the aforementioned coin section. A lever located on the right elbow of the figure is then pressed, this causes the right arm to move upward raising the pole held in his hand. The looped end of the pole moves up through the slot in the pond and pushes the coin into the coin slot. As the pole continues to travel upward a lever inside the figure is accentuated and this causes the cap to tilt backward off the head of the colored boy. The pictures clearly illustrate this operation.

Tommy Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1960

It's a rare occasion for the writer to report the existence of a heretofore unknown mechanical bank such as the "Darcy Fisherman Bank" (Hobbies, January, 1960). To repeat these circumstances in the very next article really establishes a precedent. But such is the case as we reach No. 81 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks, and the improbable becomes probable as we report the finding of a Tommy Bank. Here again this bank properly belongs further up in the listing, but we will conform to our established policy on this as outlined in previous articles.

The Tommy Bank is a World War I item. That is to say it is from that period and the name "Tommy" referred to any British soldier, the same as the American soldier was called "Yankee" or

"Yank." The bank was made by John Harper & Company of England and appeared in their catalogs as late as 1924. This rather late date might leave the impression that the bank should not be too difficult an item to locate, however, this is far from the case, as the opposite is true. Apparently, like several other late rare banks, such as the Clown, Harlequin And Columbine and the North Pole, the Tommy was made in very limited quantities and thus there are not many examples in existence. The writer is very fortunate in having an original catalog of John Harper & Company which illustrates the Tommy Bank. Therefore, it was a bank that was known to have been made, but until the appearance of this specimen had never been found.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of E.T. Richards of Peace Dale, R.I. It was found in a private home located on the Vermont-Massachusetts boundary. It is in completely original condition with good paint. The soldier is dressed in a khaki colored uniform with khaki puttees. His cap is the same color and on the front of the cap there is an unusual type of insignia. The face and hands of the figure are flesh color and his hair is black. The tree trunk is dark brown with a yellow top. The section on which the rifle rests is light brown and the grass is a bright deep green as is the rim around the base of the bank.

On the top of the base, between the tree stump and the soldier appears the name "Tommy" with an exclamation point after the name. On the bottom of the base is the word "Beatrice." The name "Beatrice" was a registered trade mark, Number 224,159, used by Harper as a general name for their line of mechanical banks. This is similar or comparable to the Excelsior Series of banks as issued by Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo, New York. For more information on the Harper Beatrice banks and English mechanicals in general please refer to HOBBIES, May, 1957.

The operation of the Tommy is the same as the Wimbledon Bank (HOBBIES, November, 1956). The gun is first set to fire as shown in the picture. In so doing the spring operated mechanism tilts the soldier's head forward as though taking aim. A coin is then placed on the barrel of the gun. Then a lever is pressed which raises the soldier's right arm and hand and this releases the mechanism firing the coin into the tree stump. As the coin is fired the soldier's head snaps back into position.

The Tommy is certainly a rare find in a mechanical bank and Mr. Richards is indeed fortunate to be the possessor of the first known example of this bank. This, of course, is encouraging news to all other mechanical bank collectors and offers each and every one a new challenge for their respective collections.

Presto Savings Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1960

An unusual mechanical bank is our choice as No. 82 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. The bank is the Presto Savings Bank and it is unusual with respect to the fact that it is mainly constructed of wood and paper. That is to say the main framework and operating parts are all made of wood with paper covering on the building. This, of course, is quite different than most of the mechanical banks which are made of cast iron.

The Presto Savings Bank was designed by Charles M. Crandall of Montrose, Pa., and patented by him May 20, 1884. He assigned two-thirds of the patent to Frederick W. Crandall and Benjamin L. Baldwin. The patent papers with the accompanying drawings very clearly describe and picture the bank as it was actually made. So often a mechanical bank was produced in its final form with many variations from the original patent or drawing. However, the Presto Savings Bank is exact in

every detail to the drawings in the original patent.

The bank is known to have been sold in the period of 1885-1886 since it is pictured for sale in the Selchow & Righter Catalog dated October 10, 1885, for the Season of 1885-1886. The writer is fortunate in having this catalog, which not only has a fine illustration of the Presto, but illustrates numerous other mechanical banks as well. The writer obtained the catalog from Lawrence B. Romaine of Middleboro, Mass., who is to be commended for his fine work in the old catalog field of Americana.

As to the operation of the bank the actual description as outlined in the Selchow & Righter Catalog is of interest and accurately describes the action:

"Size 6 inches long, 5 inches high, and 2½ inches wide.
One-half dozen in box.

This is the most pleasing and ingenious Toy ever invented. The idea is entirely new—and is so cheap and captivating as to insure sale on sight. The operation is quick and decisive, though simple and natural, while the result is surprising. A penny is laid flat-ways on top of the Bank. The operator is then directed to turn the knob and see it disappear. He does so; when Presto! the penny is gone, and quick as lightning a cunning little mouse has taken its place. The money is safe in the Vault, though nobody sees it go; the mouse is turned back to his mysterious hiding place, and the Bank is ready for another deposit. The toy is so simple in mechanism and durable in construction as to insure it from getting out of order. It is very neatly gotten up, and will handle well in the trade."

It might be well to explain several points of interest. The mouse springs from inside the building and in so doing raises the rear peaked section of the roof. This peaked section is hinged by a piece of cloth at the extreme end of the roof. After the mouse springs into the position as shown in the picture the section merely drops back into place. On the flat part of the roof between the two peaks appears the wording "Lay Penny Here." The penny when in this position, is actually knocked forward by the lever to which the mouse is attached and slides into the coin slot located in the front section of the roof.

The bank shown is in unusually fine condition and particularly so when one considers the fact that the entire building is wood with decorated paper covering. The sides of the building have a brick-like representation in red with black lining between the bricks. The roof is white with a shingle type representation. The front of the building has the word "Presto" at the top, and "Savings Bank" across the center. The window glass is realistically done in a blue shading and there is gray, dark gray, and blue coloring on the door, window tops, and outlinings of the front entrance. The mouse is a gray felt-like material and quite realistic with its black beady eyes.

The Presto Savings Bank is from the extensive collection of John D. Meyer and so far it is the only known specimen in existence. It was found some years ago by Gerald Patton, well known antique dealer of Duncansville, Pa.

In closing, it might be well to mention, that some years ago a crude, unattractive replica of the Presto Savings Bank was made, with sheet iron sides and roof and a cast iron front and back. This replica has very little resemblance to the fine original specimen under discussion. Only a few were made to try to fool collectors at the time, and this was before an original specimen was known about in collecting circles. Another word of caution is not to confuse the Presto Savings Bank with the Presto Bank (HOBBIES, September, 1956) or the small cast iron building with a false bottom drawer which has the single word "Presto" as its name.

Little Jocko Musical Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1960

The organ grinder with his pet performing monkey was a normal part of the street scene some years ago and children derived fun and pleasure in giving the monkey a penny and listening to the catchy tunes of the loud but pleasant music emanating from the hand cranked organ. The monkey would then, in the usual routine, do a turn around dance in acceptance of the coin. The organ grinder and his monkey would be an unusual sight these days, however, they are brought vividly to mind as we reach No. 83 in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank is the Little Jocko Musical Bank and both the monkey and the organ, as well as the music, are respectively well represented and played.

The Strauss Manufacturing Company of New York made the Little Jocko Musical Bank and they used the terminology "Patent App'd For" and "Trade Mark" on the front of the bank. So far the writer has been unsuccessful in locating any patent papers or evidence of the trade mark that would apply to the bank. Therefore, to the best of his knowledge the exact date of the manufacture of the bank is not known. It is the opinion of the writer, however, that it dates in the 1910 to 1915 period.

The bank shown is in very fine original condition and was obtained by the writer through the good help of Bill Ginter of Bryan, Ohio. Mr. Ginter's main interest is in antique firearms, however, he is also active in other specialty collector's items, as well as an interest in classic cars.

The Little Jocko is a bright attractive bank and the specimen shown has excellent paint with few mars or scratches. The round circle on the front of the bank was caused by the operating crank which in turn marred the paint surface in the fashion shown. The crank is practically flush with the front surface of the bank and thus in operation this marking is unavoidable. The entire organ part of the bank is an all over bright red. The decorations and scroll work on the front are in gold as is the lettering in the name. The wording "Patent Appl'd For" and "Trade Mark" is in black. The scene of the gondola with the gondolier is done in blue, red, brown, white, and yellow with various shadings. This scene is outlined in black and gold to give the appearance of a picture frame. The top of the organ has the statement "A Coin Please!" in black across the front edge. There is also gold outlining on the top. On each end of the organ there is a rhyme in black, "Drop a Coin in the Slot – Then turn the Crank around – You will see the Monkey Dance – And hear the Music sound." This rhyme is on a gold background with yellow scroll work outlining and below it appears an open sheet of music. The back of the bank is very interesting as it shows a large pipe organ with fifteen pipes that have a different type hat on top of each one. Nine of the pipes have character faces on them and each face is different but all have their mouths open as though singing. The pipes are yellow shaded with red and the outline of the pipe organ is gold with a dark blue background. The hats are done in gold and the faces in blue. Underneath the pipe organ appears the following wording in black, "Strauss Mfg. Company, New York, U.S.A."

The monkey on top of the organ is brown and he has a blue hat and trousers and a red jacket. The coin cup beside the monkey is gold with a white line around the bottom. There is a locking coin trap on the underside of the organ. The handle of the crank is a wooden knob. The bank is made of tin and sheet iron and the monkey is a lead-like material.

To operate the bank a coin is inserted in the provided slot inside the coin cup. It is necessary to push the coin in this slot rather than drop it in. The crank is then turned clockwise and music starts to play and the monkey dances around in a circle pivoting on his left foot. The entire piece plays through and then stops automatically regardless of the continued turning of the crank. It is

necessary to insert another coin to resume the action and music.

The Little Jocko Musical Bank with its attractive appearance and good action accompanied by music is a desirable bank to have in a collection. It's a difficult bank to find in complete original condition and so far there are four, possibly five, known to exist in private collections.

Bowing Man in Cupola Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1960

Mechanical banks with unknown backgrounds are always a challenge to the sincerely interested collector. Such a bank is our choice as No. 84 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks. This bank, the Bowing Man In Cupola, also has the distinction of being a new find in the field of mechanical bank collecting. Circumstances have indeed been unusual in the past few months when one considers the fact that this is the third new discovery in a mechanical bank in that time. The other two are the Darky Fisherman Bank (HOBBIES, January, 1960); and the Tommy Bank (February, 1960).

The Bowing Man In Cupola Bank unfortunately has no markings of any kind nor any patent dates which would be helpful in establishing the designer or patentee of the bank. Also there are no particular characteristics in the design or construction of the bank that would definitely identify it with any individual or concern. Further, to the best of the writer's knowledge, there are no old catalogs or material of this nature that picture or describe the bank. However, the bank does have several things in common with the U.S. Bank (HOBBIES, January, 1958) and the New Bank.

There are similarities as to construction and the general overall appearance. All these banks are painted very similarly with the same unusual colors and the same type paint. Also the three banks are assembled in a like fashion with a rod or rods running vertically through the center of each bank and held together by this method. These clues are, however, not too helpful since both the U.S. Bank and the New Bank remain unknown as to background, designer, manufacturer, and so on. Two striking features of the Bowing Man In Cupola are the type door on the front of the building and the dormer windowed roof. These are almost identical to the door and dormers on the Novelty Bank which was made by the J. and E. Stevens Company. The door opens on the Novelty Bank, however, and is also slightly larger in overall size compared with the stationary door on the Bowing Man In Cupola. The writer is not convinced that this is conclusive enough to establish the bank as being a Stevens item and until such time that further information may turn up the history of the bank will remain unknown.

The circumstances under which the Bowing Man In Cupola was found are fortunately helpful in establishing its approximate age. The bank shown is in fine original condition with excellent paint. It was obtained by the writer from an antique dealer in the vicinity of Albany, N.Y. There were twin brothers living in a small town near Albany who died within a short time of each other at the age of 78. They had several mechanical banks including the Bowing Man In Cupola which were left in their estate and the antique dealer obtained the banks from the estate. The banks were in the possession of the brothers since their childhood so it is known that the Bowing Man In Cupola dates prior to 1890 and undoubtedly in the 1880 period.

The bank is attractively painted in bright colors as follows. The graceful circular top of the cupola is a colorful red with a dark green underside, the round sides of the cupola are dark blue, and this part sets on a round dark green section on top of the roof. The rods on each side of the cupola are red and the same color is on the movable drawer-like section in the front of the cupola.

The man inside the cupola has a black derby-like hat and a red jacket with black buttons. The top of the roof of the building is a dark red and the slanting sides containing the dormers are dark blue. The dormer windows are white with red outlining and red criss-crossing. The sides of the building are dark green with the four corners outlined in red. The side windows are also outlined in red as is the front door section. The arch of the door is dark blue and the name "Bank" is in red on a white background. The window pane sections of the door are white with green outlining. The base of the building is dark blue with a white striped edge, and this completes a very colorful bank.

The operation of the bank is simple but very interesting. It is pictured ready to receive a coin. In normal position the figure of the man is face down covering the coin slot. To operate the bank the knob on the front section of the cupola is pulled forward. In so doing the drawer-like section moves forward causing the man to rise upright to the position in the picture. At the same time the coin slot is exposed to receive the coin. After depositing the coin the knob is released and the section recedes into the cupola. The figure at the same time bows in thanks for the coin and in so doing re-covers the coin slot. The action is attractive and appropriate and the mechanism is spring operated.

The Bowing Man In Cupola Bank makes a nice addition to a collection of mechanical banks. As a final word it is not to be confused with the Cupola Bank (Hobbies, June, 1957). Other than the cupola feature the two banks are entirely different both as to operation and appearance.

Bird on the Roof Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1960

A bank that has caused some conjecture over the years as to what it actually represents is our choice as No. 85 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank is the Bird On The Roof and for years the building part of the bank was thought to represent a church and the bird a dove of peace. This, however, is not the original intent of the patentee and designer of the bank.

The bank was patented March 5, 1878 by Elisha Stevens of Cromwell, Conn. The fact that Elisha Stevens himself designed and patented the bank adds distinction to the Bird On The Roof since he was a member of the famous Stevens family and the J. & E. Stevens Company who were the outstanding manufacturers of mechanical banks. Quoting from Mr. Stevens' patent papers clarifies the original intent of his representation in this bank.

"The main portion or body of the bank is made to represent a cottage having a gable roof. Said body may be ornamented with windows of Gothic or other shape. At or near one end of the ridge of the roof of such cottage-like figure is an ornamental chimney. Projecting also from the ridge of the roof and along it, is an ornamental ridge-like strip designed to form an ornamental pedestal on which a bird having its head directed toward and over the chimney is mounted."

This quoted information is conclusive as to the fact that the building is not a church and the bird is just a bird of no particular designation. Of interest too is the fact that the Bird On The Roof as manufactured is identical to the drawings in the original patent papers.

The bank shown is in fine original condition and was obtained some years ago by the writer from an Ohio antique dealer. The overall effect of the paint on the bank gives the appearance of being iridescent. The bird is silver with a yellow tail and beak. The wings and head feathers are a purple color. The chimney is yellow and the roof is purple. The roof, by the way, is particularly attractive with its graceful curving slope and the well defined shingles. The sides of the building are silver outlined in purple and the windows are outlined in yellow.

To operate the bank a coin is placed as shown in the picture. Then the lever under the bird's tail

is pressed. The head and forward part of the bird drops down and the beak hits on the edge of the chimney. This causes the coin to fall into the chimney. When the bird tilts down its tail raises up, and to re-set the bank for action the tail is pressed down and the bird and the lever snap into position. The bird works more or less on a cantilever arrangement.

The Bird On The Roof is an early, attractive bank and extremely difficult to find in complete original condition with no repairs. The bank is entirely different than any of the other mechanical banks and is unique in both action and appearance. It makes a nice addition to a collection.

Squirrel & Tree Stump Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1960

Thriftiness and saving are appropriately represented in the mechanical bank of our choice as No. 86 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. Certainly a squirrel in the act of storing an acorn in a tree stump leaves little to be desired as an outstanding example of saving and looking ahead to one's future. Therefore, the Squirrel And Tree Stump is a particularly pleasing mechanical bank from the standpoint of its very desirable theme, realistic representation, and accurate operation. Of course, there are other mechanical banks such as the Bank Teller Bank (HOBBIES, February, 1953) which are also completely representative of saving in their general appearance and operation. Certainly nothing could better illustrate saving than a bank teller depositing your offered coins, which is the operation of the Bank Teller Bank. However, the Squirrel And Tree Stump would have a definite appeal to children and at the same time well point out the object lesson of saving one's money. With this thought we must always keep in mind the fact that basically speaking all mechanical banks were made to encourage children to save their coins and the various actions and operations involved were all invented to lead to the habit of saving money.

The Squirrel And Tree Stump was designed and patented by Robert E. Turnbull of New Britain, Conn., June 28, 1881. He assigned the patent to the Mechanical Novelty Works, also of New Britain. Mr. Turnbull carefully protected his design from all angles and the bank as actually produced is identical to the drawings in the patent papers. One feature was protected in two ways and this had to do with the operating lever. In addition to the lever as actually made he had a provision for a lever protruding from the rear of the bank which could be pulled in order to operate the squirrel. The bank was made by the Mechanical Novelty Works and Mr. Turnbull was one of the owners of this company. In addition to the Squirrel And Tree Stump this concern made a number of other mechanical banks including the very desirable Initiating Bank First Degree (HOBBIES, November, 1952).

A point of interest has to do with the fact that the Squirrel And Tree Stump has no markings or patent dates on the bank itself. As a rule where a bank was patented the date of patent was usually inscribed on the underside of the base of the bank. There are several of the mechanical banks, however, which are exceptions to this rule and the Squirrel And Tree Stump is in this category. The Monkey Bank (HOBBIES, April, 1958) is another example. There are cases where a bank will bear the inscription "Pat. Appl'd For" and this indicates that the bank was manufactured before the final patent papers were issued. At a later date, after issue of patent, the bank was then produced with the patent date shown. This is not infallible, however, as some banks bore the same inscription, "Pat. Appl'd. For," throughout their period of manufacture.

The Squirrel And Tree Stump shown is in unusually good original condition and was obtained by the writer some years ago from a New England antique dealer. The paint is excellent. The tree

stump is an overall dark brown with the top of the stump and one root end in white. There are green sections around the base of the stump with some highlighting and flowers in yellow and red. The squirrel is a bronze and gold color with black eyes.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the acorn as shown in the picture. The lever at the foot of the squirrel is depressed and the figure of the squirrel tips forward dropping the coin in the provided slot in the top of the stump. The squirrel automatically returns to the position shown upon releasing the lever.

The Squirrel And Tree Stump makes a very appropriate, desirable addition to a collection of mechanical banks. It is an interesting, attractive bank even to the decorative base plate, and difficult to find in complete original condition.

Penny Pineapple Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1960

The collector of mechanical banks, as well as the general public, will be interested in the news that we bring you at this time. This news has to do with a new mechanical bank that is not only attractive but also has the added desirable feature of being a historical item. Penny Pineapple is the bank, and she has put in her appearance to commemorate the occasion of the celebration of the addition of our 50th State, Hawaii, and the addition of the 50th Star to our Flag.

Penny Pineapple is similar in operation to a number of the bust type of mechanical banks such as Humpty Dumpty. When any coin up to and including a 50-cent piece is placed in her right hand she is ready for action. A lever located to the rear of the left shoulder is pressed and she raises her right hand to her mouth and swallows the coin. At the same time her tongue recedes and she rolls her eyes upward in appreciation. Releasing the lever returns the arm, tongue, and eyes to the position shown in the picture.

Credit for this decorative mechanical bank goes to Thomas M. Imswiler of West Chester, Penna., who thought up the idea more or less on the spur of the moment. He designed the bank and holds the patent rights. The original model was made by Charles E. Rabenstine of the Littlestown Pattern Works of Littlestown, Penna. Mr. Imswiler has formed a partnership with Alvin N. Saylor of York, Penna., and together they have formed the concern Imswiler & Saylor. They are producing the first 500 of the Penny Pineapple Banks with the designation "1st Run Of 500" imprinted on the base plate. In addition to this the date of July 4, 1960 is imprinted across the back of the initial 500 banks. Any subsequent banks produced will not bear either of these designations. Among other plans Imswiler & Saylor intend to have one of the banks presented to Governor William F. Quinn of Hawaii during the period of the celebration of Hawaii becoming our 50th State and the 50th Star on the Flag.

Penny Pineapple is a well made cast iron mechanical bank and the molding and foundry work is being done by a concern who formerly made some still banks and have some experience in the field. The bank is painted in very attractive bright colors. The face is a tan color with some red highlighting on the cheeks, the eyebrows are outlined in black, and she has blue eyes. Her lips and tongue are bright red and the teeth are white. The back of her head has the texture and appearance of a pineapple and the leaves atop her head are green. On the front of her chest is a large yellow five-pointed star and this star has '50th' in black raised letters thereon. She has a blue collar and blue sleeves and the striping across the front and back of her blouse is in red and white. Across the back is inscribed the name "Penny Pineapple" in raised letters.

The bank is priced at \$15.50 plus postage and anyone desiring one of them can contact the writer should they so choose.

In closing the writer might explain that in the ordinary routine surrounding the collecting of mechanical banks he would have no particular interest in writing about any banks that are of current manufacture. However, Penny Pineapple does have historical significance and in time will in all probability become a collector's item and thus he feels that it is important enough to bring to the attention of HOBBIES' readers.

Safety Locomotive Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1960

An interesting, attractive, tri-purpose mechanical bank is our choice as No. 87 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank, Safety Locomotive, is not only intended as a toy savings device but was also made to be used as a paperweight and a pull toy. Of further interest is the fact that the bank represents an object and there are a very limited number of mechanical banks that fit into this category. Others are the American Bank (HOBBIES, July 1955), the Camera Bank (HOBBIES, December 1955), and the Pistol Bank. The fact that the bank represents an early type of 4-4-0 locomotive with its fine tall stack adds considerably to its desirability, not only to collectors of mechanical banks but to collectors of cast-iron toys and toy train collectors as well.

The Safety Locomotive, like the American Bank and the Camera Bank, has been considered a borderline case as to its being a semi-mechanical or a mechanical bank predicated on the fact that there is no immediate action in direct connection with a coin whether inserted in the bank or deposited by the action of the bank. Well the Safety Locomotive is a fine little bank and it does have clever mechanism inside whose operation is eventually caused by the number and weight of coins and it most likely belongs in the mechanical bank category. It's to be admitted that from a strictly action standpoint the bank leaves much to be desired but this is not the only basis on which we judge a mechanical bank as to its merit as there are other factors involved. It is a well known and established fact among collectors of mechanical banks that some of the most desirable and rarest items have a minimum of action in their operation.

The Safety Locomotive was patented November 15, 1887 by Edward J. Colby of Chicago, Illinois. The patent papers covering the bank were somewhat difficult to locate since he patented the bank as a toy locomotive and, therefore, this put the papers into a classification and sub-classification where under normal circumstances patent papers covering a mechanical bank would not be found. Also of interest is the fact that the Safety Locomotive is the only known mechanical bank to be patented in the entire year of 1887.

The patent papers on the Safety Locomotive are noteworthy and Mr. Colby starts his claim as follows: "My invention relates to toys for banks, paper-weights, and the like, and has for its object to provide a bank which can be used as a toy to be drawn by a child, can be used as a paper-weight, or can be used as a bank, the contents of which are adapted to open the bank when they reach a certain weight. These objects I accomplish by means of the mechanism in the accompanying drawings, wherein Figure 1 is a side view of my invention. Figure 2 is a longitudinal section through the invention. Figure 3 is a plan view with the smoke stack and sand chest removed to leave the bank open."

The accompanying drawings referred to are the same as the bank pictured. Detailed explanation is given in the papers as to the parts and working mechanism with reference to the drawings. The

smoke stack and sand chest are shown as an integral unit which is removable after the proper number of coins have been deposited in the bank. In his summation of his patent Mr. Colby expresses his claim as follows:

"I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent a toy bank consisting of a hollow locomotive provided with a coin receiving aperture, a removable smoke stack which covers the aperture through which the coin is removed, and a spring-latch which is adapted to lock the smoke stack in position, but when depressed by the weight of the coin permits it to be released and removed so that the coin may be abstracted."

The bank shown is in nice condition and completely original. It was obtained by the writer a number of years ago through the good help of B.H. O'Connell of Binghamton, N.Y. The bank has its original nickel-plate finish and this type finish in mechanical banks is rather uncommon. As a matter of fact in the entire series of articles up to date only one mechanical bank came with a nickel finish and this was the Automatic Coin Savings Bank (HOBBIES, December 1956).

As to the operation of the bank, dimes are inserted in the coin slot located in the roof of the cab and they drop on through into the steam boiler. When sufficient coins have been deposited they force the spring in the forward end of the boiler and thus depress the locking piston and cause it to descend. The hook on the bar to which the sand chest and smoke stack are fastened is thus freed and this part may be removed so that the coins can be extracted.

The Safety Locomotive pictured has the name "Safety" on the front of the boiler and "Pat. 87" on each side of the cab under the windows. A later variety of the bank has the name "Safety" on each side of the cab and the date "Pat. 87" on the front of the boiler. This type also has a removable curved piece that fits on top of the boiler under the removable stack and sand chest. This was a later adaptation to facilitate the removal of coins.

The Safety Locomotive makes a desirable addition to a collection of mechanical banks and it is a real challenge to the collector to find one in complete original condition. Since it was played with as a pull toy as well as a bank it was subject to extra usage. Usually one part or another is broken and most often the removable stack and sand chest is missing completely. The number of complete original Safety Locomotive Banks in private collections is very limited.

Peg-Leg Beggar Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1960

A mechanical bank with a more or less charitable motif is our choice as No. 88 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank is the Peg-Leg Beggar and it is rather appropriate in its representation of the typical street type of beggar who was a common sight in our cities throughout the country some years ago.

The subject matter of the Peg-Leg Beggar has a counterpart in another mechanical bank, namely Patronize The Blind Man And His Dog (HOBBIES, March, 1955). Here we have the blind man appealing for coins which, when given to him, are thoughtfully taken from his hands by his dog and deposited safely away.

The theme of charity in both the Peg-Leg Beggar and Patronize The Blind Man And His Dog had and still have a definite appeal to any person or child in stimulating the desire to put a coin in either of the banks. This is a worthwhile feature and of considerable interest to the collector when one considers the fact that these two mechanical banks, as compared with the other known mechanical banks, have an entirely different approach to the underlying objective of all mechanical

banks, and that is the encouragement to formulate the habit of saving one's money.

The Peg-Leg Beggar is unfortunately another one of the banks whose background is an unknown quantity.

Neither the designer or manufacturer is known and there are no outstanding characteristics about the bank that lead to any particular designer or concern. Also there are no markings of any kind on the bank that possibly might offer a clue as to its origin.

Fortunately, however, we can definitely establish the period in which the bank was made. Ehrich's Fashion Quarterly for the Summer of 1880 pictures the bank for sale and describes it as follows:

"The Beggar Bank. Represents a one-legged negro sitting with his hat in his hands begging. On dropping a coin into the hat it instantly disappears, while the beggar nods his head in acknowledgement." It is also interesting to note that Ehrich's sold this bank for 50 cents each and priced it as such in the same 1880 advertisement.

The bank shown has been in the writer's collection for a number of years and it is entirely original and in fine condition. The figure of the beggar sits on a box-like base and this base has perforations in the sides. A screw through this base holds the bank together as it is made in two halves, and the head pivots at the neck and is held in place by these halves. Coins are removed from the bank by loosening the screw and taking the bank apart.

The finish on the bank is in a good state of preservation. The clothes of the beggar, as well as the box-like seat, are a copper bronze-like color. His right shoe, peg-leg, hat, hands, and face are all black. There are also black buttons down each side of the front of his overcoat. Between the lapels of his coat there is a white shirt-like effect and this has red edging in the center. His mouth is red and his eyes white with black pupils.

As to the operation of the bank, this has already been fairly well covered in the quote from the original ad in Ehrich's Fashion Quarterly. The coin when dropped into the hat goes through a slot and engages a balanced lever that is fastened to the head of the figure. The weight of the coin tilts the lever back causing the head to tilt forward as though nodding in thanks for the coin.

The Peg-Leg Beggar is a simple but very interesting bank and rather difficult to find in good original condition. It is a desirable mechanical bank to have in a collection.

Royal "Trick" Elephant Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1960

An interesting group of mechanical banks is comprised of elephants of different types and sizes performing a variety of tricks involving the use of coins in their action. The appropriately named Royal "Trick" Elephant Bank, one of the most unusual in the group, is our choice as No. 89 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. The name is quite appropriate since the elephant is most certainly decorated in a lavish royal manner and he does do a neat trick with a coin.

Definite background information on the bank, as to the origin, maker, time of manufacture, and so on, is sadly lacking. There are no markings, dates, numbers, or anything else on the bank itself that would help to identify it. No catalogs of any type known to the writer either picture or describe the bank for sale. There are some things, however, concerning the bank that we can be reasonably sure of. For one thing there is no question but that it is of foreign make and most probably of German manufacture. It has characteristics in common with the Cross Legged Minstrel for example, and this is a known foreign product. Also the Royal "Trick" Elephant Bank is made of tin,

similar to some of the other known imported mechanical banks. The locking tin coin trap in the base is identical to several of the German made banks. Other factors, all indicative of the same foreign source, have to do with the colors of the bank, and the way it is made. As to the period of the bank there is not much to go on, but most likely it dates around 1890 to 1910.

The bank shown is in fine original condition and is in the extensive collection of John D. Meyer. On the occasion of a recent visit with Mr. Meyer the writer had the pleasure of examining several mechanical banks in his collection, and in particular the bank now under discussion, and the Snake And Frog In Pond. Both of these banks are quite unique and rather difficult to describe unless seen first hand. Mr. Meyer's Royal "Trick" Elephant Bank was formerly in the collection of the late James C. Jones and it was one of Mr. Jones' favorite banks. He was particularly fond of elephants and in addition to his collection of mechanical banks he also had quite a collection of elephants in ivory, bronze, and other materials. Naturally any mechanical bank that had to do with an elephant had a particular appeal to him.

The bank, as stated above, is very ornately decorated. The base is red; and the coin holder, and the section between the legs of the elephant have representations of green foliage. The elephant itself is a tan and green color with shading and blending of the two colors. There is a red blanket or robe covering the elephant's body. This has gold fringe around the edges and red tassels hanging down each of the legs. In addition there is blue and gold bordering and other decorations on the robe. There is a striped blue and red hood over the head of the elephant and this has red tassels hanging over the front of the ears and down the front of the trunk. All lettering on the bank is in black. On each side of the red base the following verse appears:

"Put a coin in the slot then you'll see something funny.

Press my tail hard and I'll swallow the money."

On the front of the red base appears the name "Royal 'Trick' Elephant Bank." The following wording appears on each side of the base just under the coin holder, "Place Coin Here," and there is an arrow pointing up to the coin holder. The verse refers to this section as having a slot, which it does, however, in normal reference to a coin slot an entrance for the coin is indicated. In the case of this bank the slot is actually a resting place for the coin, or a coin holder, since the coin does not enter the bank through this slot.

The operation and mechanism of the bank is fast and efficient. A coin is first placed in the slot as directed and then the tail is pressed. In so doing a V-shaped piece in the slot on which the coin rests snaps up and throws the coin rapidly upward. At the same time the elephant's head and trunk bend down so that the coin goes into the mouth with perfect precision. The action of the coin is actually so fast that it seems to disappear and it is necessary to watch closely in order to see the coin enter the mouth. Releasing the tail automatically returns the working parts to the position shown in the picture.

The Royal "Trick" Elephant Bank is an intriguing mechanical bank and it offers a good challenge to the collector since only a few specimens of the bank have turned up to date.

Hoop-La Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1960

Mechanical banks with a circus motif form a very desirable group of banks that offer good action, a variety of types, and colorful specimens. As we reach No. 90 in the numerical classification we come to one of the banks in this group, namely the Hoop-La Bank, which is of

English manufacture. Two other English made mechanicals fit in the circus group, the Clown Bank (Bust) and the Clown Bank (Tin).

The circus theme is well represented by a number of the American made banks and two of these have been covered in past classification articles, the Circus Bank (HOBBIES, October, 1952) and the Clown On Bar Bank (HOBBIES, April, 1956). Two possible border-line cases of the circus motif that have also appeared in the articles are Professor Pug Frog's Great Bicycle Feat (HOBBIES, January, 1953) and the Acrobat Bank (HOBBIES, September, 1958). The other American banks in the group are Trick Dog Bank, Circus Ticket Collector, Clown On Globe, Humpty Dumpty, Elephant And Three Clowns On Tub, and Jumbo. There is also every possibility that several other of the elephant type mechanical banks could be classed in the group.

The Hoop-La Bank was made by John Harper & Company of England and the design registration was under the date of April 5, 1897. The action of the bank is the same as the American made Trick Dog Bank patented in 1888 and similar to another English bank brought out in 1909, John Bull's Money Box (HOBBIES, September, 1957). The Hoop-La was apparently a popular bank for Harper as they featured it in their catalogs over a number of years and as late as the 1920 period.

The bank pictured was obtained by the writer several years ago from David Hollander, the well known antique dealer of Riverdale, N.Y. It was formerly in the collection of the late Walter P. Chrysler, the famous automobile magnate and avid collector of mechanical banks. The bank shown is in good condition, however, the paint is somewhat worn and chipped. This same condition exists with the other Hoop-La banks the writer has seen in other collections.

While somewhat the worse for wear the colors on the bank under discussion are still quite bright. The clown's outfit is an overall striking yellow and the large collar, pockets, and cuffs are in red. He has white stockings and his shoes are tan with red buckles. The three peaks of his hair are black as are the buttons and belt of his costume. Red markings appear on his face. The dog is white and the barrel is red with black banding. The top and bottom of the base are brown and the front, back, and end plates are green. The wording "Hoop-La Bank" is in gold.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the dog's mouth, then a lever in the right end of the bank is depressed and the dog springs forward and upward through the hoop and throws the coin into the barrel. The dog is manually replaced in position for future operation. The action is fast, simple, and quite pleasing.

The Hoop-La Bank, like a number of the English banks, is not an easy item to add to a collection and to date less than eight are known to exist in private collections.

Frog on Arched Track Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1961

An interesting early tin mechanical bank is our choice as No. 91 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. The bank is the Frog On Arched Track. One of its points of interest has to do with the fact that a penny is necessarily involved in the action and operation of the bank. Also the 1871 date of the bank adds great interest when we realize that in only eleven more years it will be 100 years old.

It is fairly accurate to assume that the Frog On Arched Track was not made over a long period of time nor in any great quantities since all factors surrounding the bank indicate this to be so. Therefore, using the patent date of 1871 to establish the age of the bank at 100 years in 1971 is

logical. For comparison this could not be done on the same basis in the case of the Tammany Bank.

The Tammany was made over a long period of years and in great quantities but all specimens of the bank bear the same early patent date of December 23, 1873. However, certain minor casting changes in the name, the base plate, coin trap, and so on can be used to identify and place individual examples of the bank in fairly accurate periods and time of manufacture. These factors surrounding the Tammany Bank are of interest, however, they do not have any great meaning from a monetary standpoint since all examples of the bank sell in the same price range provided their general condition is comparable.

The Frog On Arched Track was patented December 5, 1871 by James Fallows of Philadelphia, Pa. The patent papers frequently mention and always refer to the figure as a toad, not a frog, but the bank has been known for years as the Frog On Arched Track and this name has been descriptive enough to identify it. Under the circumstances it would seem best to continue to use the established name rather than change it to the Toad On Arched Track and possibly cause confusion.

It should be noted that Mr. Fallows' patent papers were issued on the basis of an "Improvement In Toy Toads," not as a mechanical bank, toy money box, or savings device. However, since there is a receptacle that retains the coins and since it has been accepted over the years as a toy savings device, then it is probably properly classified as a mechanical bank. There are, however, known examples of toys that use a coin in their action that are not mechanical banks and had no provision for retaining the coins. These are simply toys and have no possibility of being classed as mechanical banks.

The bank shown is from the collection of Leon J. Perelman and he obtained it several years ago from an antique dealer in Sanatoga, Pa., who had found the bank in a home in the vicinity. It is completely original, in good working order, and the paint shows very little wear, particularly for a tin stenciled bank of this type and age. The entire bank with the exception of the green toad is painted a bright reddish orange color. There are stenciled designs in gold on the arched sides and the den of the toad. The patent date of the bank is also stenciled in gold. While the bank is made of heavy tin it bears mention that the toad is a brass stamping.

The bank operates as follows: The toad is placed in its den and the lid is closed (this is the canister-like section at the left end of the bank as pictured). A penny is inserted in the holder at the end of the arched track. The lid of the den is then raised manually and the toad jumps out of its den, travels over the arched track and grabs the coin in its mouth. The toad then recedes back on the track toward the den. Meantime the coin moves through the body of the toad and at the proper moment drops into the container. The toad is replaced by hand in the den for future action. The den, of course, serves the double purpose as a container for the coins and the toad. A point of interest is the fact that the bank works on a counter-balance principle as there is a weight within the bank which causes the toad to swing out over the track and then back over the track.

The Frog On Arched Track is a difficult bank to add to a collection, and particularly so in the condition of the one in Mr. Perelman's possession. The action is interesting, it is an early item, and only a few are known to exist in private collections.

Atlas Bank

by F.H. Griffith - **HOBBIES Magazine** - February, 1961

One of a number of reasons for a collector's interest in mechanical banks has to do with the diversified subject matter as represented by the many different type banks. The great variety of themes and actions of the banks seems unsurpassed in any other collector's field and the originality, techniques, and ingenuity used in designing the banks resulted in an intriguing group of animated toy savings devices representing a broad assortment of subjects. If a person takes the time to seriously think about it mechanical banks comprise a unique group in the toy category and practically every mechanical bank is a unique item in itself. The numerous different actions and figures used in connection with the usually routine depositing of a coin in a bank are really almost unbelievable, particularly to those not familiar with the general subject.

Mechanical banks have one thing in common, they are all savings devices with the addition of entertaining action. This sets them apart from all other type toys and puts them completely in a class of their own. Where else in the field of collecting can one find in animated form the following: — people and children in various activities including games and sports such as baseball, football, leap frog, roller skating, and so on; all types of animals performing tricks and various other actions; buildings with action; objects such as a street-car, camera, sewing machine, pistol, and so on; historical items representing the Civil War, Spanish-American War, North Pole, World War I, and others; political and satirical representations; religious representations; nursery rhymes and stories; circus items; and last, but not least, those with a surprise or comic motif.

As we reach No. 92 in the numerical classification we come to a bank that well illustrates the broad subject coverage discussed here. This bank is the Atlas Bank and it depicts Atlas supporting the world on his shoulders, and certainly there is no other remotely similar bank among the other known mechanical banks. The Atlas Bank is very attractive, has good action, and the statement, 'Money Moves The World', one of the most significant appropriate statements to appear on any of the banks, appears thereon.

Very little is known as to the background of the Atlas Bank. To the best of the writer's knowledge there are no known facts as to the designer, manufacturer, or the period in which the bank was made. Extensive research in patents has been fruitless and so far there are no old catalogs or like material that would shed light on the Atlas Bank. Also nothing about the bank is characteristic of any other bank that would offer possible clues to indicate any particular designer or manufacturer. An examination of the map used on the globe of the bank offers some possibility of estimating the approximate period of the bank. Based on this it is the writer's opinion that it dates prior to 1900 and possibly in the 1880 to 1900 period.

The specimen shown is in fine completely original condition and was obtained by the writer some years ago in an antique shop in Boston, Massachusetts, under never forgotten circumstances. The bank was in the front window of the shop and this attracted the writer's attention to the place for the first time. It was run by two elderly sisters and they had cats all over the place among the antiques, on tables, up on the shelves, on top of chests, under chairs, and around the floor. Every now and then one of the cats would take off, others would follow suit, and over would go some antique piece of glass or china. The sisters would sit impassively through these occasions and seem to take it as a matter of course and purely routine. No time was wasted in leaving the place after the bank was purchased and, as a matter of fact, subsequent visits to the shop mainly consisted of opening the door slightly and asking if there was anything new lately. The writer has had numerous weird and unusual experiences over the years of collecting mechanical banks and the one mentioned is one of many. Experiences of this type offer an added interest to the normal routine of collecting and discussing them with other collectors and their experiences adds up to interesting conversations.

The Atlas Bank is very attractive, although it is not highly decorated. The figure of Atlas and the entire top of the building-like base is gold, the sides of the base are silver, and the door, two windows, and name are in gold. The globe is made of wood covered with a paper map of the entire world. There is a varnish-like finish on this paper surface and the colors of the different countries and continents are toned light yellow, light red, and so on.

The operation of the bank is quite simple but effective. The lever on top of the base is pressed to the left, a coin is then placed in the thus exposed slot. Upon releasing the lever, which is at spring tension, it snaps back into place and causes the world to spin around counter-clockwise. Thus the motto on top of the base, 'Money Moves The World', is accurately and actively demonstrated.

In conclusion a point of interest is the fact that the Atlas Bank is the only known mechanical bank based on Greek mythology. Atlas was the son of Titans Iapetus and Clymene and his name means bearer or endurer. Originally he was supposed to support the heavens on his head and unwearied hands, and in earlier works of art he was depicted in this fashion. In later times after the earth was discovered to be spherical he was then pictured as carrying the terrestrial globe. Thus the Atlas Bank accurately and properly portrays him in his endless task of supporting the world through eternity.

Giant in Tower Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1961

Mechanical banks as a collector's item have received increasing recognition, interest, and activity since the early 1930's. There are known cases where the animated banks were collected prior to this time, in the 1920's, but the real competitive situation among collectors of these toy mechanical savings devices actually began in the period of the 1930's. These were the times of the so-called pioneer collectors and such names as Chrysler, Corby, Emerine, Jacobs, Jones, Marshall, Meyers, Ferguson, and several others are well remembered by the writer. The active specialist mechanical bank dealer of this early period was the never to be forgotten personality, Norman E. Sherwood, who lived in Asbury Park, N.J., and subsequently moved to Spring Lake, N.J. In each location he operated his bank business from his home and displayed the items for sale, as well as selling by mail and making personal deliveries to some of the collectors.

The early collectors and dealers in mechanical banks deserve due recognition for their efforts in establishing a hobby that has continued to increase in popularity to the present time and shows every evidence of continuing to do so in the future. Many different specimens of mechanical banks were brought to light in this earlier period of collecting. It was natural, of course, that in the pioneer period previously unknown examples of mechanical banks would turn up with some frequency, but what has been of great interest to the writer is the fact that this same situation has continued to occur up to the present time. Perhaps the frequency of a new discovery does not occur as often as in the past but it certainly has been a continuing factor of real interest and stimulation to the collectors.

The factors surrounding new discoveries in mechanical banks apply not only to those made in the United States, but also to those of foreign manufacture. As a matter of fact it is in the more recent times that foreign banks have really come into their own and factual background material established so that more and more is known about them. As we reach No. 93 in the numerical classification we have selected as our choice an English bank that was unknown until a few years ago. This bank is the Giant In Tower and it is a very interesting, attractive item. The writer, through

old catalog material, had evidence that the bank had been manufactured but it was only recently that one was finally discovered and then another turned up, and undoubtedly there will be more found in the future.

The specimen shown is in the fine collection of Leon J. Perelman and he obtained it from a Pennsylvania antique dealer in the early part of 1960. The bank in turn was obtained by the dealer through a contact in England. It is in practically mint condition and completely original.

The bank was registered August 13, 1892 by John Harper & Company Ltd. and manufactured by this same concern. One of their old catalogs which is in the writer's possession pictures the bank and advertises it as the Giant. To avoid confusion with the Giant Bank (HOBBIES, July 1952) made in our country the writer has named the English bank under discussion Giant In Tower. This name is simple, completely descriptive, and eliminates any possibility of confusion.

Mr. Perelman is quite fortunate in that his pictured specimen of the bank is in extra fine paint condition. The tower is an overall brick red and the door and windows are yellow. The body of the Giant is brown and his face and hand are black. His tongue is red, as is the club held in his hand. As to the action of the bank, it is quite simple but effective. A coin is inserted in the slot located between the top arches of the two front windows. As the coin is pushed into this slot the Giant tilts forward as though threatening the depositor. The figure returns to its normal upright position as the coin drops inside the tower. The operation of the bank is the same principle as Mama Katzenjammer (HOBBIES, December 1958).

In closing it bears mention that the Harper catalog picturing the Giant In Tower states that it came with two different finishes, one in various colors, the same as Mr. Perelman's specimen, and another in what Harper called "Indian Black with the head painted only." The one in various colors originally sold for a slightly higher price per dozen than the Indian Black finish.

Smyth X-Ray Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1961

A mechanical bank commemorating a discovery of great benefit to the entire world is our choice as No. 94 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank is the Smyth X-Ray, and while it actually works on the principle of an illusion, it does very properly convey in a broad sense the general principle of X-ray in seeing through certain objects. The object in this case is a coin used in conjunction with the operation of the bank.

The Smyth X-Ray Bank was patented May 31, 1898 by Charles Smyth of Dayton, Ohio, and he assigned one half to Lena Hyman, also of Dayton. The patent papers are clear and concise in their description of his invention and the accompanying three drawings are exactly the same as the bank was actually made. The manufacturer of the bank is unknown, however, it is possible that Mr. Smyth had a foundry make the cast iron parts for him and then did the balance of the assembly work and so on either by himself or with employed help. It is also possible that some concern manufactured and marketed the bank for him, or he may have sold the patent outright to a company. In any event, perhaps at some future date the old catalog or advertisement will come to light which will reveal this information.

The bank shown is from the very fine collection of Mr. L.C. Hegarty and it is in excellent original condition. The bank was formerly in the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby, but just where Dr. Corby obtained it is unknown to the writer. This specimen has an oxidized type finish over its entire surface. However, the bank was apparently produced in at least two types of finishes

as Mrs. Mary Gerken has in her collection a nickel plated Smyth X-Ray in fine original condition. These same two type finishes were also used on the Automatic Coin Savings Bank (HOBBIES, January 1957).

The name of the bank, as shown in the picture, also appears on the other side along with additional wording on the two T-shaped parts. One part has 'Pat. Pending' thereon, and the other 'Trade Mark Rec'd.'. In each case the terminology appears on the horizontal side of the respective part. It is unusual to have Trade Mark on a mechanical bank, and particularly so in conjunction with a Patent reference. As the writer recalls there is only one other mechanical bank to bear both these inscriptions, the Little Jocko Musical Bank (HOBBIES, April 1960). The only Smyth X-Ray Banks seen by the writer to date all had 'Pat. Pending' thereon, and this would indicate they were all made while the patent was still pending. It is possible, however, even after the granting of the patent in 1898, that the terminology was never changed due to the fact it was felt the original Trade Mark was sufficient protection against infringement or duplication. In practically all cases where a mechanical bank was manufactured during the application or pending period of the patent term 'Patent Pending' or 'Patent App'd. For' was used on the bank. However, this was subsequently changed to the actual date of the issuance or granting of the patent and all future production of the particular bank bore this inscription.

The operation of the bank is simple but effective. A coin is placed in the center between the two T-shaped parts. It stays in position resting on the operating lever. The small tapered viewing section, shown on the left in the picture, is then raised to the eye of the viewer. With the other eye closed, the bank is held in this position and directed or pointed towards some well lighted object. The viewer sees the object as though he were looking right through the coin. The lever is then depressed, the coin drops into the bank, and the object still remains in the vision of the viewer. This is an illusion and actually the viewer is looking at an image or optical counterpart of the object. This illusion is created by the use of four mirrors, two small and two somewhat larger, arranged in such a fashion that they reflect the image down into and back up through the inside of the bank. The illusion principle of operation is employed in two other banks; one, the mechanical Presto Bank (HOBBIES, September 1956), and the other a semi-mechanical, the Multiplying Bank. The Multiplying Bank by the use of two mirrors set in a V-shape creates the illusion of making one penny look like eight.

In closing it bears mention that X-rays were discovered toward the end of 1895 by Wilhelm K. Roentgen, Professor of Physics at the University of Wurzburg, Bavaria. However, the first X-ray photograph was made January 12, 1896 by Dr. Henry Louis Smith, Professor of Physics at Davidson College in North Carolina. He used a human hand taken from a corpse and fired a bullet into it. He then took a 15 minute exposure which revealed the location of the bullet in the hand. It is of interest to note the coincidence of the similarity of names between the first user of X-rays and the inventor of the X-Ray Bank.

Clown Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1961

In every field of collecting there exists a general interest, with the majority of collectors, in the background history of each of the individual items comprising the collection. Where was it made, by whom, when, why, and so on are some of the questions that too often remain unanswered. With certain types of collectibles this information is practically impossible to obtain, while with other

types complete information is passed down over the years or can be ascertained with little effort. Research in any particular collecting field is, however, usually a persistent, time consuming proposition and often a matter of chance or luck, but in any case persistence greatly increases the percentage in favor of the researcher. Mechanical banks as collector's items offer a very interesting, challenging problem to the collector who desires background information on his individual specimens. It is desirable to know as much as possible about each bank as it stimulates a person's interest above and beyond the mere level of just forming an accumulation of intriguing toy animated savings devices. In most cases each of the known mechanical banks is an interesting item unto itself, with its attractive action, clever mechanism, and subject matter. However, when complete background data can be established there is no question as to the added interest plus the fact that the intrinsic and actual value of the respective bank is increased.

Fortunately complete background information can be ascertained on many of the mechanical banks made in the United States. In numbers of cases this information even includes the original designer and patentee of the respective bank. Foreign mechanical banks have, however, posed a much greater problem in developing background history. Determination and persistence in research over a period of time has shed some light on a number of banks in this group and much more is known today than as recent as four or five years ago. A foreign bank, which until a few years ago fit into the unknown information category, is our choice as No. 95 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank is the Clown Bank and it is of English manufacture. The bank pictured was originally found by Bob and Mary Merritt of Merritt's Antiques, Douglassville, Pa. They are well known, outstanding antique dealers and make frequent trips abroad to replenish their large representative stock. On one of these trips a few years ago they attended a street market sale in Brighton, England, and purchased the Clown Bank at this sale. The bank was shipped to their shop along with other antiques and subsequently sold to an individual who eventually passed it along to the present owner, L.C. Hegarty.

Chamberlin & Hill, Ltd. manufactured the Clown Bank and it was carried in their line of specialty items as late as 1930. They also made the Little Moe Bank (HOBBIES, August 1958), as well as the Jolly Nigger (With Fixed Eyes). The writer has an original catalog picture of the Clown Bank in color along with the complete description. It was originally sold as the Mechanical Clown Money Box and priced at 30 shilling per dozen. The catalog states that the bank was painted in brilliant colors and if preferred it could be supplied in pale blue where shown in red. This was merely a variation in the trim. However, it did offer prospective buyers a choice.

The bank shown is completely original with no repairs and in good paint condition. The overall bank is painted white. All the following parts are blue — the top of the peaked hat and rim, the ruffled part of the collar, the cuff on the sleeve, and the buttons down the front. The circular collar part next to the neck is yellow. The eyebrows are black and the tongue and lips red. The combination of colors does give a very bright attractive appearance to the bank.

As to the operation, it is like most of the bust type of banks. A coin is placed in the extended right hand. When the lever located in the left rear shoulder is pressed the hand raises to the mouth and the coin slides therein. At the same time the tongue recedes and the eyes roll. Releasing the lever causes the respective parts to return to the position shown in the picture.

In closing it is well to mention that there are a number of different type clown banks, however, there are only three known of the bust type. One is the bank under discussion and another is the Humpty-Dumpty. In spite of the fact that these two banks do not look alike there still exists the possibility of confusion. They are both clowns, they both have peaked hats, and they both have the same action. However, the Humpty-Dumpty has the name on the back of the bank and it is also

considerably larger than the Clown Bank. The third bust type clown bank is the Bill E. Grin, but this is quite different than the other two and the name Bill E. Grin is across the front of the bank. Humpty-Dumpty and Bill E. Grin were both made in the United States.

Bull and Bear Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1961

Anyone who has an interest in the articles on mechanical banks as published in HOBBIES Magazine is no doubt familiar with the fact of the writer's special attention to the broad coverage of subject matter as represented by the various banks. This is, of course, just one facet of the writer's interest, however, it is an important one since quite often the particular subject as represented by a certain bank definitely adds prestige to that bank.

The various different types of subject matter such as historical, political, sports, and so on have been outlined and covered in past articles. However, as we reach No. 96 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks we have chosen a bank that is unique in its theme and representation. The bank is the Bull and Bear and its subject matter has to do with the Stock Exchange.

The Bull and Bear Bank with its stock market theme naturally causes one to think of the New York Stock Exchange and Wall Street. This brings mixed emotions to a wide group of the population. To many the disastrous crash of 1929 is an unforgettable event, to others the more pleasant recent years of a rising market is foremost in their thoughts.

There's no question but that the stock market has become more and more popular with an increasing percentage of the population from all walks of life. There still exists, however, and probably always will exist, a never ending tug of war between the "bulls" and the "bears" in the up and down trend of the market. The Bull and Bear Bank well typifies this struggle as there is no certainty if the bull or the bear will receive the coin. The coin in this case representing the profit and the swinging pendulum represents the trend of the market from "bullish" to "bearish" or vice-versa.

The Bull and Bear Bank has unfortunately an unproven background as to the designer, manufacturer, or definite period in which it was made. Also the specimen shown is the only one that the writer has complete confidence in with respect to definitely having some original authentic parts.

This bank is now in the possession of Leon Perelman and it certainly adds some distinction to his fine growing collection of mechanical banks.

Mr. Perelman obtained the bank from the late David Hollander. It was originally in the collection of Walter P. Chrysler. Mr. Chrysler had obtained the bank from the pioneer dealer Norman E. Sherwood, and Mr. Sherwood found the bank at the site of the J. & E. Stevens Company. This leads to some fairly conclusive information concerning the bank. It is the writer's opinion that it was designed by Charles A Bailey and most likely produced at the Stevens Company foundry.

As to the number manufactured, the writer has no idea but most likely it was made in very limited quantities. There are numbers of Bull and Bear Banks around which are heavy, cumbersome things in cast iron and brass. These are grotesque fakes and awkward reproductions of the original bank pictured. All these have no connection with the bank under discussion. Most of them were made some 20 to 25 years ago, some in more recent years, and they have, in the writer's

opinion, no value as a collector's item.

The bank shown is in good original condition with the exception of the bear. It is the writer's opinion that the cast iron bear is not the original bear intended for the bank. The bull is a lead-like metal similar to Bailey's Springing Cat (HOBBIES, September, 1952), Chinaman In Boat (HOBBIES, May, 1955), and others of his design.

The workmanship of the bull is finely done, unquestionably original, and it is reasonable to assume that the bear would have originally been made in the same fashion and of the same material as the bull. The balance of the bank, the base and tree trunk, are cast iron and show all evidence of being fine original parts.

Bailey employed this same combination of metals in his Germania Exchange Bank (HOBBIES, March, 1952). The legs and body of the barrel of this bank being cast iron and the figure of the goat in a lead-like material. Bailey's Bismark Pig (HOBBIES, March, 1956), is also the same combination of the two metals.

The paint on the pictured bank is in good condition and completely original with the exception of the bear. The bull is an overall reddish brown with red nostrils and mouth, the front part of the ears are white, and the eyes are also white with black pupils.

The bear is a dark brown with red mouth. The tree trunk is brown with the stump ends yellow with reddish-brown trim. The base of the bank is an overall green trimmed in red. The base has flowers thereon and these are in yellow and red. The name "Bull and Bear Bank" appears across the front of the base and this lettering is in gold.

As to the operation of the bank, a coin is first placed in the provided slot in the top of the swinging pendulum. When the lever located near the base of the tree trunk is pressed, motivation is applied to the swinging pendulum in such fashion that there is no control or certainty as to the coin swinging to the bull or the bear. In either case the coin is deposited in the provided slot in the top of the respective animal's head.

In conclusion the writer can only say that circumstances surrounding the origin and background of the Bull and Bear Bank are similar to those of the Called Out Bank (HOBBIES, October, 1955). Time will tell if other examples of this same type Bull and Bear Bank turn up, and there is always the possibility that some form of proof will be found to definitely establish the fact that both banks were sold commercially.

To date there is no proof that either the Bull and Bear or Called Out were ever produced in quantities or sold in stores. This has no effect on their desirability, however, nor the fact that there is no question as to the authenticity of either bank.

Neither bank comes in the category of only having reached the pattern stage which, of course, would automatically disqualify them in reaching the level of an authentically produced original item in a collection of mechanical banks.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1961

It has been some time since the writer has more or less informally gotten up to date with the various individuals who are interested in mechanical banks. The writer receives numerous letters from both collectors and dealers having to do with mechanical banks, and these letters cover a broad area of questions and problems. Some of these are of definite general interest to all

mechanical bank collectors and dealers. Therefore, it is well occasionally to digress from the usual classification article and pass along some information concerning mechanical banks in general.

One factor that seems to still concern both collectors and dealers are the reproductions of mechanical banks that have come on the market in recent years. Various forms of publicity on these reproductions has stimulated and increased general interest in mechanical banks and added prestige to the old original specimens.

One must always bear in mind that the reproduced banks are being sold as such, not as original specimens. They are easily recognized as reproductions and not intended to mislead anyone. The writer knows of numerous new collectors of mechanical banks who have started in the past few years and their interest is in the original old banks, not reproductions.

After all, any collector of mechanical banks wants original authentic banks in his collection and nothing else will do. It's the same with collectors of stamps, coins, Currier & Ives prints, paperweights, and so on.

The manufacturers of the reproduction banks, so far as the writer knows, have always sold them for what they are—reproductions. They have not intended to misrepresent. The unfortunate thing about it is that occasionally the banks get into trade channels and sometimes are sold to the unsuspecting as original, old banks.

It is to be admitted that various forms of misinformation now and then circulate around, and while this does no great harm, it certainly does no particular good and is misleading. For example, a recent article on mechanical banks was called to the attention of the writer by a number of people.

This article stated that a group of pictured mechanical banks were all recently made from the original molds found in an old foundry in New Jersey. This foundry, according to the article, years ago originally made the banks pictured. Well the majority of the mechanical banks pictured were originally made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. Two were originally made by Kyser & Rex of Philadelphia, Pa. Two others were originally manufactured by Shepard Hardware Co. of Buffalo, N.Y., and finally another was made by Hubley Manufacturing Company of Lancaster, Pa. And, as a matter of fact, the writer knows of only one foundry in New Jersey that was ever active in the production of mechanical banks at any time, and this foundry produced only one type of mechanical bank.

As to original patterns of mechanical banks, a very limited number exist today. For the most part the only original patterns still in existence were in the Stevens Company prior to World War II, and the majority of these were melted up during the war period.

This information was given to the writer personally by an employee of the Stevens Company. As to the existence of patterns of other manufacturers of mechanical banks, to the best of the writer's knowledge, there are none.

In several collections of mechanical banks there are some original designer patent models, as well as original patterns, but these are very limited. As example, there exists two each of designer models of the Aunt Dinah And The Fairy and the Wishbone Bank. There is also one each of the respective designers' model of the Feed The Kitty and the Blacksmith.

There is absolutely no evidence or proof that any of these models ever reached the production stage, and this places them in a category of their own. Several experimental designer models of the Hall's Yankee Notion Bank exist, but here again they come into the same category mentioned in the foregoing since an actual bank was never produced.

Now to sum up the commercially produced reproduction mechanical banks which are being advertised and marketed by several sources. These banks are made by using an old production bank as a pattern. This does not give the same result as that which one would obtain by using an original

pattern.

Also some of these reproductions have been simplified in their mechanism to facilitate production. In this case the finished respective bank does not operate the same as an original or perform all the mechanical functions. To repeat, all the reproductions are easily identified as being the reproductions they are intended to be.

* * *

It is always of great interest when one can discover practical proof that a heretofore unknown mechanical bank must have been actually manufactured. Well the Japanese Ball Tosser, which has appeared in the writer's ad for some time, has finally materialized into some form of definite proof of manufacture.

Two old catalogs recently obtained by the writer furnished this proof. One lists and describes the bank and the other has an excellent picture of the bank, as well as a complete description of the action.

This is indeed a gratifying discovery as the writer has always felt that the Weeden Manufacturing Company had actually produced the Japanese Ball Tosser and distributed it to dealers for sale to the public.

The bank operated with a windup mechanism and is also similar in general appearance to the Ding Dong Bell (HOBBIES, October 1954) and the Plantation Bank, both Weeden products. The figure of the Japanese is centered in the front recessed section of the bank and the realistic action of tossing the balls is well described in the text accompanying the picture of the bank.

So, like the Coasting Bank (HOBBIES, April 1955), we now have the Japanese Ball Tosser, and some place or other examples of either or both banks must exist and are just waiting to be discovered.

Snake and Frog in Pond Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1961

The Snake & Frog In Pond, a most unusual tin mechanical bank, is our choice as No. 97 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. It is unique in that it is the only bank known to utilize the representation of a snake in its action.

A snake striking a frog would most certainly seem an unlikely subject matter for a child's savings bank. The fact that such a bank was made, however, offers further proof of the extremes to which designers of mechanical banks went to in coming up with something different in the way of action and subject matter.

The vast majority of people obviously do not like snakes. Transversely, however, most people are definitely fascinated by them and drawn to them in spite of being repelled.

Within this realm of feeling, lurking in the subconscious of the individual, lies the particular interest in the Snake & Frog In Pond. Specifically, of course, with respect to a collector of mechanical banks. This is in addition to the collector's usual desire of ownership and interest in any specimen of a mechanical bank.

The Snake & Frog In Pond shown is owned by John D. Meyer, one of the pioneer collectors of mechanical banks. It was formerly in the collection of the late James C. Jones, who was also one of the early collectors. Just where Mr. Jones obtained the bank is unknown to the writer, however, it is known that the bank is of foreign manufacture.

The wording "Made In Germany" is printed on the end of the bank where the frog is located.

The initials "D.R.G.M." appear above this statement. This lettering has three interpretations or meanings.

One, Deutsches Reichs Germein Musterschutz – Deutsches means German, Reichs means Empire, and in the last word "Muster" means registered, and "schutz" stands for design, trademark, copyright, or patent.

Second interpretation or meaning is Deutsches Reichs Geschutzes Muster – this means German State Protected Material.

The third and last meaning is Deutsches Reichs Gebrauchsmuster – this means a German Registered Design that is good for a short time only.

Just which of these three meanings apply to the Snake & Frog In Pond is unknown, however, this is not necessarily important. What is important is the fact that the bank was a protected item, the same as a patented bank in our country.

Other information on the bank is sadly lacking. The actual manufacturer or designer is unknown. So is the period or time in which it was made. The writer has never seen any old catalogs or other material that pictured or described the bank, which would be helpful in dating it. In any event, it is the writer's opinion that it was produced after 1900, and most likely dates in the 1910 to 1920 period.

The bank is a very attractive item with bright colors and fine details. The base represents a predominantly light green woodland scene. The large frog is in a lake and the indentation of the lake on top of the base goes to within an inch of the snake. The snake is among some brown and yellow rocks, green grass, and ferns.

The lake is blue streaked with white, and in it are some raised lily pads in green and white. A green frog is swimming in the water and a green and yellow salamander is crawling towards the snake.

A snail is crawling on the edge of the lake and surrounding the lake are many types of flowers in red, yellow, white, and blue. The lake is also represented along each side of the bank. Here again are highly colored flowers, snails, bees, frogs, and a lizard.

The body of the snake is a mottled iridescent blue and gold. The top of his head is an iridescent blue with beady gold eyes. The underside of his head and mouth is yellow. The large frog on the end of the bank is a dark green and black with a yellow underside. All this detail and color add up to a very attractive bank.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the snake's mouth (the lower jaw is movable). The operating lever is located under the snake, and when this is depressed the snake darts forward realistically and rapidly, and at the same time the frog opens his mouth. The snake stops at a given point and the coin flies from his mouth into the open mouth of the frog. The action is fast and accurate. The bank is pictured just after the coin has gone into the frog's mouth.

It occurs to the writer that sooner or later someone will undoubtedly refer to this bank as the Snake In The Grass Bank. This brings to mind an unforgettable occurrence years ago in the early stages of his collecting. He received word from an antique dealer that she had a Snake Fighting A Chicken Bank.

After much anticipation and driving he arrived at the destination to see this great possible rarity. Well, believe it or not, it was the Eagle & Eaglettes Bank. The party thought the tree branch lever was a snake and the eagle a chicken! This probably sounds a little fantastic, but it's absolutely true and only one of many similar incidents.

Prior to obtaining his fine mint specimen of the Circus Bank (HOBBIES, October 1952) the writer was offered a forgotten number of Circus Banks, and in all cases they turned out to be the

Clown On The Globe. This, of course, is somewhat understandable, but nonetheless disappointing at the time.

In conclusion the Snake & Frog In Pond Bank most likely never reached any particular degree of popularity with children, and in all probability a limited number were made and sold. This is further borne out by the fact that only two, possibly three, of these banks are in private collections to date. It's a very decorative, scarce little bank and a desirable item to add to a collection.

Mechanical Banks – Repairs & Ramblings **by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1961**

Mechanical banks that have parts missing or are broken in one way or another pose quite a problem to both dealer and collector. The writer receives numerous letters in regards to this problem, and in the majority of cases answers them. Some, however, are almost fantastic. For example, a recent inquiry concerned having a base plate and top plate of a certain bank and the party involved wanted to know if the missing parts could be obtained. Well that means that about one-third or less of the bank was on hand, and at best these could only be employed as repair parts, not to build a bank around them.

The writer has often wondered when someone was going to come up with a coin trap and ask if the rest of the bank was available! Generally speaking some degree of good judgment must be used on the part of both dealer and collector in ascertaining when a bank is complete enough to be repaired or actually represents a few useful parts.

In many cases, particularly with dealers, a broken bank is taken to some routine welder or handyman and is practically ruined by inexperienced hands, when it should have been repaired by a specialist in this very specialized field. Good sound advice is this — if the respective dealer with a broken or damaged bank does not intend to have the bank repaired properly, then leave it alone and sell it as it is. This is particularly true and becomes increasingly so with respect to the rarity of the respective bank. The rarer the bank, the greater the caution with regard to repairs. Collectors in the vast majority would prefer buying a bank as is, rather than repaired in some crude fashion. A few collectors prefer and are able to fix banks themselves, but generally most employ the services of a competent repairman.

The repair of mechanical banks is a very specialized field that is time consuming beyond the normal realization of most people. To properly repair a bank takes considerable skill, experience, time, patience, and care. Numerous letters to the writer ask about supplying missing parts and repairing a broken or damaged bank. In the writer's opinion a very competent man in this type of work is George W. Bauer of Pottstown, Pa. Mr. Bauer is experienced, conscientious, and he understands cast iron, welding, and other necessary factors to do this type of work. In cast iron welding or brazing he is careful to burn as little of the original paint area as necessary. He supplies missing parts and these are original parts whenever possible. Mr. Bauer is also active in the repair of cast iron toys generally, and these include the various type of horse drawn toys, trains, bell ringers, and so on. His regular business is in the field of antique brass, copper, and silver in repairing, replating, and other factors connected with this type of work, including making many interesting lamps from old ship lights and the like.

The writer will not attempt to go into all the phases and angles of repairing mechanical banks and cast iron toys at this time. However, it is well to remember that a job can be done well, almost perfect, or it can be a crude mess. In any case it is best to have repairs on mechanical banks or cast iron toys done properly and pay to have it done right or don't do it at all. This is particularly true

with the dealer and he must decide himself if the expense of a certain repair is worth the additional investment.

Speaking of cast iron toys, over a period of time the writer has received many requests to write on cast iron toys. Of course mechanical banks are cast iron toy savings devices, but the terminology cast iron toys refers to the wide group of horse drawn toys including fire equipment, carriages, work type, circus wagons, and so on. Also in the category are trains, automobiles, bell ringing toys, toy pistols, and cannon. The writer intends to eventually cover some of the more important toys, and as a matter of fact has written on animated cap pistols (HOBBIES, July 1958), bell ringers (HOBBIES, February 1957), and cannon (HOBBIES, July 1957). The writer is very interested in the general line of cast iron toys but it is a complex field with many types made by a number of manufacturers. In any event, an effort will be made in the future to cover the cast iron toys in some group form similar to the aforementioned three articles.

Of general interest to mechanical bank collectors — The writer has obtained an original advertisement picturing the United States Bank (HOBBIES, August 1956). This details the action of the bank and so on and shows the manufacturer's name as J. & E. Stevens Company, Cromwell, Conn. At the time of writing the article on the bank the writer could only logically attribute it to Stevens, but now definite proof exists to substantiate this opinion. Of further note is the fact that the picture and text bring out a previously unknown point of interest surrounding the bank. Quoting the text: "Each bank has lock and key, and is neatly finished. On depositing a coin of any size or weight, the cover springs up and a miniature bank-book appears into which the amount of the deposit may be entered." So the bank was originally sold with a deposit book which fit neatly in the space provided in the top of the bank.

New Finds

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1961

The great majority of collectors, dealers, and individuals with an interest in mechanical banks naturally want to keep as well informed and up to date as possible. Generally speaking it is the writer's policy to keep all interested individuals as current as feasible with occasional interruptions of the regular classification articles. Now and then some information, particularly in complete form, is a little difficult to pass along due to certain restrictions placed on the writer. Confidences must be respected and there are occasional circumstances whereby a particular collector or dealer wants to remain anonymous due to reasons of his own. Ofttimes a dealer will not want his name connected with a certain bank since he must maintain friendly business relations with the general group of mechanical bank collectors. Since it is impossible to please them all, at any one time, with one bank, his only recourse is to remain anonymous with some degree of secrecy. This is particularly true in the case of the rarer banks or unusual finds that come up now and then.

A few more or less interesting new finds in mechanical banks have not been reported by the writer for some time due to circumstances beyond his control. However, at this time, with names eliminated, there is no reason not to inform interested parties on these banks, Under present conditions opinions, personal or otherwise, will not be expressed here with respect to desirability or other factors surrounding the banks involved. The writer has personally seen all banks under discussion.

A mechanical bank that may have been known as the Barking Dog Bank is a rectangular box-like affair made of wood with tin sides. These tin sides are painted red and have round perforations.

A rather large grotesque, angular wooden bull dog covered with brown color paper is on top of the box-like base. In operation, he is pulled into position to the end of the bank and a coin is placed at the proper location on the other end. A lever releases the dog and he springs toward the coin which drops inside the base. As this action takes place the mechanism inside the base simulates a barking sound. This is created by means of a tin arrangement dragging over a spring. The spring is fastened to one end of the base which acts as a sounding board. Part of the original paper label is on the underside of the base, but unfortunately most of it is missing and we can only surmise that the original name was the Barking Dog Bank. It is apparently a late item, possibly made in the same period as the Wireless Pup, which is a toy employing the use of a similar type bull dog in its action. The Wireless Pup was patented in 1913 and 1914 and was made during and somewhat beyond that period. The bank has a home-made look about it but the paper label would seem to establish its authenticity. This, to the best of the writer's knowledge, is a new find in a mechanical bank.

A second type Guessing Bank has turned up and the action is the same as that of the conventional Guessing Bank which is the figure of a man sitting astride a chair. This second type has the figure of what looks like a Gay 90's woman standing beside a section containing a coin chute and dial with revolving pointer. A coin is dropped in the provided slot at the top of this section and the weight of the falling coin causes the pointer to spin on the dial. The dial is numbered and if the depositor guesses the number at which the pointer stops he is entitled to withdraw the amount of coins indicated. Otherwise the bank retains all coins. The name "Guessing Bank" appears on the front of the bank and it is made of a metal similar to that of the conventional Guessing Bank. This, to the best of the writer's knowledge, is another new find in a mechanical bank.

Another generally unfamiliar bank is the Safe Deposit Bank, and this name couldn't be much more misleading. The bank is made of tin and consists of a rather large figure of an elephant on top of a rectangular shaped base. On each side of this base there is a paper label imprinted with the name "Safe Deposit Bank." The elephant is in a standing position with his trunk hanging down. To operate the bank a coin is placed in the curved tip of the trunk, and on moving the elephant's tail the trunk swings and the coin drops into a provided slot in the base. The figure of the elephant is one of the semi-full type made in a two part stamping, which is similar to many of the tin horses and other animals used on various different types of early tin toys. The bank has been more or less under wraps for a number of years while in the possession of an inactive pioneer collector. However, a number of months ago it was in the temporary possession of another party and there were possibilities of it being offered for sale. While it cannot, strictly speaking, be classed as a new discovery, circumstances have at least brought the bank out in the open to a limited degree.

The Trick Savings Bank is a simple, unpretentious little mechanical bank which, to the best of the writer's knowledge, can be classed as a new find. It is a small rectangular shaped wooden box with a black tin front drawer in one end. On opening the drawer a circular section is exposed and a coin is deposited therein. Close the drawer and open it again and the coin has disappeared. This action is similar to that of several other mechanical banks such as the Presto and Give Me A Penny Bank. On the underside of the bank is a paper label which contains the following information:

Trick Savings Bank —

This bank should be opened by
skill and not by force.

TRY IT

Patented May 24, 1892 by C. Tollner. It may be well to explain that there is no coin trap on this bank for the removal of coins and there is no apparent way to get the coins out once they are in the

bank. There is a trick involved so that the drawer may be removed and the coins can be taken out through the opening which normally accommodates the drawer.

Monkey and Parrot Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1961

A monkey and a parrot do a very clever trick, when the coin disappears, it does so real quick. This more or less appropriately describes the bank which is our choice as No. 98 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank, the Monkey And Parrot, is a very gaily colored, extra good action toy savings device. It must have had definite appeal to both boys and girls and most certainly is desirable to the collectors of today. The action is quite fast and comparable to that of the Darktown Battery (Baseball Bank). As most interested individuals know, in operating this bank the pitcher really throws the coin to the catcher and more often than not one doesn't see the coin in its travel between the two figures. Another bank with similar type fast action is Professor Pug Frog's Great Bicycle Feat (HOBBIES, January, 1953).

The bank pictured is in unusually fine original condition, and particularly so for a tin bank. As a matter of fact, the terminology "mint" could be used to describe it. The writer obtained the bank some years ago from Thomas Kelly, a country antique dealer near East Liverpool, Ohio. Mr. Kelly found the bank in the home of an elderly couple in the vicinity of Kingsville, Ohio. It was in the attic of the home in a box with miscellaneous dishes and toys and had been packed away for a considerable number of years. The writer well remembers obtaining the bank as it was under somewhat unusual circumstances as so often seems to be the case with mechanical banks. In any event, arrangements were made to meet on the highway approximately half way between East Liverpool and Pittsburgh in Imperial, Pa. Mr. Kelly was unknown to the writer, but regardless both parties arrived in Imperial at the same time, met, and started the business part of purchasing the bank right on the highway. Subsequently the transaction was completed in a local restaurant during lunch. It only goes to show one can never tell under what circumstances he is going to obtain a mechanical bank.

To the best of the writer's knowledge practically no background information is known to date concerning the Monkey & Parrot Bank. Sadly lacking is any proof of the manufacturer, date or period it was made, or anything else for that matter, except it was made in Germany. This statement appears stamped in the back of the bank. Judging from the bank itself, it is the writer's opinion that it was made after 1900 and most likely in the area of 1910. Other than this we can surmise no further on any other points and can only hope that some form of factual information will turn up at a future date.

The paint on the bank shown is really nice and in bright, fine condition. The front and sides are yellow and the rounded top and back are red. The base and operating lever are black. The section fastened on the front of the bank which serves to guide the coin from the monkey to the parrot is painted red. The monkey is brown shaded with tan and he has large white eyes. The belt across his middle is red. The parrot has a large red beak, yellow body with red and blue feathers, and his wings and top knot are blue. His perch and feeding cup are a light red. All these colors combine to form a very attractive showy bank.

Just above the monkey's tail, impressed in the metal, appears the statement "Put Money Here." To operate the bank a coin is placed as instructed. Then the lever shown on the left in the picture is depressed. As the lever is pushed down the monkey also bends down and the coin slides along his

back and comes to rest in his upraised hands. At the same time the parrot opens his beak very widely and his eyes convey the effect of movement. Upon releasing the lever a spring action snaps the monkey back to his position as shown. The coin flies through its guided path, up and into the parrot's beak. The parrot's beak closes to the position shown in the picture as the coin enters. As mentioned, the coin travels very fast and the action is good and accurate. Originally the parrot let out a squawking noise when he opened his beak. There is a bellows type squeak mechanism inside the bank but this has long since ceased to operate. The writer has left this noise producing mechanism "as is" since there is possibility of damaging the bank in trying to take it apart in order to repair the bellows. Also this isn't particularly important one way or the other under the circumstances.

The combination of the monkey and the parrot have a real appeal and they seem to fit together in some natural sort of way. It's a very clever bank with excellent action and makes a particularly desirable addition to a collection.

Pistol Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1961

A toy pistol that could be said to have double barrel interest is our choice as No. 99 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. The clever dual purpose toy is not only an interesting, unusual action mechanical bank, but it could also be played with as a toy pistol. Thus, it has double interest, not only to collectors of mechanical banks, but also to collectors of toy pistols as well. Another point in its favor is the fact that it is one of the few mechanical banks that represent an object. The limited number of banks that fit into this category were dealt with in the article on the Safety Locomotive Bank (HOBBIES, September, 1960). The Safety Locomotive and the Pistol Bank also have another point in common since both banks require dimes in their operation in order to work properly.

The Pistol Bank was patented by James Hall Bevington of Chicago, Ill., September 21, 1909. He assigned his patent to Edward N. Heller, also of Chicago, doing business under the name of Richard Elliott Company. The patent papers covering the bank are very detailed and lengthy covering over five pages of written description and another sheet with 14 figure drawings. The Pistol as manufactured by the Richard Elliott Company is practically identical to the patent papers with the exception of a bell which was intended to ring when the trigger was pulled. The bell was to have been contained inside the cylinder section of the Pistol, but for some reason, perhaps due to manufacturing difficulties, this was omitted in the actual production of the bank.

It also bears mention that the patent papers always refer to the bank as a toy pistol or coin receiving toy pistol. On occasion some collectors in past years have referred to the bank as the Revolver Bank, however, logically, since the patent papers are so explicit and since it is a toy pistol, it would be best to standardize on the name Pistol Bank.

The bank shown is in fine original condition and was obtained by the writer some years ago from an Ohio antique dealer. It is made of cast iron with a nickel plate finish. The fact it is cast iron is brought out since at a later date during the period of the manufacture of the bank it was also made in a sheet iron stamping with a nickel plate finish. Both types operate the same and so on, however, the one made in cast iron is more desirable.

The operation of the bank is simple, fast and efficient, but quite different and unexpected. Naturally a toy pistol has the effect of firing something out of the barrel, whereas with the Pistol

Bank a coin is in effect fired into the barrel. To operate the bank a dime is placed in the end of the barrel as shown in the picture. It stays in place and when the trigger is pulled a lever snaps out from inside the barrel, engages the coin and snaps it back into the barrel and down inside the butt of the pistol. The action is very fast and simultaneous with the pulling of the trigger. Coins are removed by means of a combination key mechanism in the base of the butt. This coin trap part has the following inscribed thereon: "Manufactured By Richard Elliott Company, Chicago, Ill." Also the word "Patented" appears under the hammer on each side of the Pistol.

The Pistol bank with its unique action and dual appeal makes a very interesting desirable addition to a collection of mechanical banks. It is not an easy item to find and most likely many were originally broken or put out of commission due to being played with as a toy, not necessarily as a savings device.

Jumbo Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1962

Elephants are well represented by a number of the mechanical banks and comprise a very interesting group of these intriguing animated toy savings devices. This group is not only desirable to the collector of mechanical banks, but also to the many individuals who collect elephant items as a hobby. As we reach No. 100 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks our choice is one that well represents the elephant category. This is the Jumbo Bank, and it is a dual purpose cast iron toy since it not only served as a savings bank, but could also be played with as a pull toy.

The Jumbo Bank is very much like the Light Of Asia (HOBBIES, October, 1956) and unquestionably both banks were made by the same concern. This manufacturer is still an unknown factor as, to the best of the writer's knowledge, no patent papers, old catalogs, or anything else have turned up which would furnish information of this kind. There are no dates or markings of any type on the bank itself and certain characteristics are not indicative of any one manufacturer in particular. There are possibilities it was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., or Kyser & Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., but nothing conclusively indicates either one, and some other company may well have made the bank.

The definite period in which it was made is very well established under the circumstances of the writer obtaining his specimen of the Jumbo. The history of this particular bank is rather sad, however, it definitely dates the bank and also accounts for its excellent "like new" condition.

The bank pictured was obtained by the writer from Mrs. J.G. Harrington of Paris, Ill., a number of years ago. It was originally purchased by her uncle, C.W. Moore, in Georgetown, Vermillion County, Ill., March 12, 1883. He had bought it as a gift for his little boy's second birthday, but his son died on March 14, 1883 without ever seeing the bank. It was kept by the Moore family and never used or played with over the years. Subsequently the parents passed on and no close relatives remained and the bank came into the possession of Mrs. Harrington. It is rather exceptional for the writer to have first-hand information of this kind surrounding a mechanical bank's history and it does seem unfortunate that the circumstances would be of such touching nature.

The bank, of course, is in new original condition and the paint is practically mint. The Elephant is a dark brown and he has a red blanket on his back with the name "Jumbo" in gold. His mouth is red and he had white eyes with black pupils. The base and wheels are green with gold outlining and highlighting.

The operation of the bank is quite simple. A coin pushed into the provided slot in the elephant's

back causes his head to nod up and down. The deposited coins remain inside the elephant and it is necessary to remove the screw that holds the elephant together in order to take the coins from the bank.

As stated in the article on the Light Of Asia, it was the writer's opinion that the Jumbo Bank may have been an altered example of the Light Of Asia made to coincide with P.T. Barnum and his acquiring the famous elephant "Jumbo" from the London Zoological Gardens in 1882. This would now seem definitely borne out by the fact that the Jumbo Bank is in the period of 1883 as proved by the writer's specimen of the bank. It is logically quite certain that it had to do with this event irrespective of its being an altered model of the Light Of Asia.

A word of caution is in order here. Both the Light Of Asia and Jumbo should have the fine heart type of wheels as shown in the picture. Due to the fact that a photo of a specimen of this bank, with small automobile type wheels, received some degree of circulation, the false impression was given that these wheels were proper. This is not so, and as a matter of fact the writer knows of several cases where these wrong type wheels have been substituted for the fine original ones due to a lack of knowledge on the part of the individuals involved. In addition to this, some Jumbo Banks have been sold as completely original with just the Elephant and no base or platform and wheels. The bank was obviously not made in this fashion since all specimens which consist of the Elephant only show signs where the lugs have been ground off the legs. These lugs fastened the animal to the wheeled base. The bank is only complete and original when it is as the one shown in the picture. This also applies to the Light Of Asia.

To sum up, the Jumbo is a dandy little bank to have in a collection and it is a hard item to find in complete original condition.

The First Hundred Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1962

The January, 1962, issue of HOBBIES marked somewhat of a milestone insofar as mechanical banks are concerned. It hardly seems possible that a few months over ten years have elapsed since the initial article on the classification of mechanical banks appeared in this magazine. In that period, including a number of special articles, 100 mechanical banks have been covered, the 100th appearing in the January, '62 issue.

Naturally the rarest and most desirable of mechanical banks are in this first hundred, as well as those having the greatest value. Basically this group will remain unchanged. That is to say it will have a certain permanency about it in the years to come. True there can always exist the circumstances whereby some new find or discovery may turn up, but this likelihood occurs less frequently and to a diminishing degree as the years go by. Thus, in spite of this possibility, the first one hundred mechanical banks will remain fairly much unchanged.

In the last ten years the interest in mechanical banks has grown by leaps and bounds. This increased interest has brought many new collectors into the field and today there are thousands who are collecting these interesting old toy saving devices. Along with this trend the writer's correspondence has increased accordingly, and more and more letters are received with many types of questions concerning mechanical banks.

To aid some who have followed the articles since their inception and all those who have come into the picture since, the writer feels it would be worthwhile at this point to list the first one hundred mechanical banks and the date each appeared in HOBBIES Magazine. This will be helpful

from a number of angles including the fact it will also serve as a ready reference to those who have saved the articles.

Name of Bank **Date**

1951

1. Freedman's Bank October
2. Clown Harlequin and Columbine Bank November
3. Merry-Go-Round Bank December

1952

4. Shoot The Chute Bank January
5. Mikado Bank February
6. Germania Exchange Bank March
7. Girl Skipping Rope Bank April
8. Bread Winners Bank May
9. Sportsman Bank June
10. Giant Bank July
11. Roller Skating Bank August
12. Springing Cat Bank September
13. Circus Bank October
14. Initiating Bank First Degree November
15. Motor Bank December

1953

16. Professor Pug Frog's Great Bicycle Feat January
17. Bank Teller Bank February
18. Old Woman In The Shoe Bank March
19. Girl In The Victorian Chair April
20. Jonah And The Whale (Jonah Emerges) May
21. Dentist Bank June
22. Red Riding Hood Bank July
23. Milking Cow Bank August
24. Uncle Remus Bank October
25. Confectionery Bank November

1954

26. U.S. and Spain Bank January
27. Butting Ram Bank March
28. Football Bank (Darky and Watermelon) April
29. Bull Dog Savings Bank May
30. North Pole Bank July
31. Octagonal Fort Bank August
32. Ding Dong Bell Bank October
33. Bowling Alley Bank November

1955

34. Patronize The Blind Man And His Dog March
35. Hindu Bank February
36. Chinaman In Boat Bank May
37. American Bank July

38. Preacher In The Pulpit Bank August

39. Panorama Bank September

40. Called Out Bank October

41. Turtle Bank November

42. Camera Bank December

1956

43. Billy Goat Bank January

44. Bismark Bank March

45. Clown on Bar Bank April

46. Baby Elephant Bank—Unlocks At X O'clock June

47. The United States Bank August

48. Presto Bank September

49. Light Of Asia October

50. Wimbledon Bank November

51. Football Bank December

1957

52. Automatic Coin Savings Bank January

53. Hold The Fort Bank March

54. Woodpecker Bank April

55. Cupola Bank June

56. Afghanistan Bank August

57. John Bull's Money Box September

58. The Target Bank October

59. Shoot That Hat Bank November

1958

60. U.S. Bank January

61. Organ Grinder and Performing Bear Bank February

62. Picture Gallery Bank March

63. Monkey Bank April

64. Bow-ery Bank May

65. Goat, Frog and Old Man Bank June

66. Little Moe Bank August

67. Acrobat Bank September

68. Dog Tray Bank October

69. Calamity Bank November

70. Mamma Katzenjammer Bank December

1959

71. Lion Hunter Bank February

72. Horse Race Bank March

73. Tank and Cannon Bank April

74. Time Is Money Bank May

75. Butting Buffalo Bank July

76. Chimpanzee Bank August

77. Perfection Registering Bank September

78. The Winner Savings Bank October

79. Reclining Chinaman Bank December

1960

80. Darky Fisherman Bank January
81. Tommy Bank February
82. Presto Savings Bank March
83. Little Jocko Musical Bank April
84. Bowing Man In Cupola Bank May
85. Bird On The Roof Bank June
86. Squirrel and Tree Stump Bank July
87. Safety Locomotive Bank September
88. Peg-Leg Beggar Bank October
89. Royal Trick Elephant Bank November
90. Hoop-La Bank December

1961

91. Frog On Arched Track January
92. Atlas Bank February
93. Giant In Tower March
94. The Smyth X-Ray Bank April
95. Clown Bank May
96. Bull and Bear Bank June
97. Snake and Frog In Pond August
98. Monkey and Parrot Bank November
99. Pistol Bank December

1962

100. Jumbo Bank January

Guessing Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1962

A somewhat imposing money box, which verges on being a gambling device rather than a toy mechanical bank, is our choice as No. 101 in the numerical classification. The Guessing Bank, as it is appropriately named, is also a complete departure from the generally accepted idea of a mechanical bank, particularly as to appearance. It is a rather impressive looking item and, simply expressed, it just doesn't look like a child's toy savings bank or for that matter a toy of any kind. However, it definitely is a mechanical bank and was patented as such, specifically as a toy money box.

Edward G. McLoughlin of New York City patented the Guessing Bank, May 22, 1877, as an improvement in toy money boxes. The patent papers go on to state that McLoughlin has invented a new and improved toy bank, the object of which is to provide a game of chance in connection with a toy bank. The papers go on from there to explicitly outline the operation and mechanism of the bank. The actual manufacturer of the bank is, to the best of the writer's knowledge, unknown. However, we are fortunate in having considerable background information due to the man responsible for turning up all known specimens of the bank.

Mr. Mark Haber, the well known collector and dealer in mechanical banks, is the individual who through perserverance found the first example of the Guessing Bank and subsequently the remaining known examples. Mr. Haber has kindly furnished the writer with the information and

circumstances surrounding his locating and obtaining the Guessing Banks. Using his own words the story is as follows:

"The discovery of these banks was entirely accidental and unusual, and the lead was furnished by an old picker, who informed me that he thought he noticed something that might be a bank or statuette being used as a door stop at a house in South Windham, Conn. His meager description of the object and the location left me no other alternative but to comb every street in South Windham, until I finally espied the object. It was rusted and weather beaten, but unmistakably the bank patented by E.J. McLoughlin.

"I had little trouble in purchasing the bank from the occupants, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Sherman. Further inquiry revealed that Mr. Sherman's grandfather had purchased the patent rights and had a number of these banks made up for distribution to jobbers who were to show these to the trade through their salesmen. To the best of his recollection, the orders for these banks were so meager as to make it an unprofitable venture to go into large production. Being possibly a gambling device in the hands of a child it did not seem to have any appeal.

"Further inquiry on subsequent visits revealed that there were a few of the banks left in an old barrel in the original packings in the fine old stable on the estate. Without going into further details, I managed to purchase two or three at each visit for sums of money plus some fine first editions which I always brought with me for Mr. Sherman as gifts. Mr. Sherman collected fine first editions and appreciated my thoughtfulness."

The writer's example of the bank is pictured. It is in mint condition and was originally obtained from Mr. Haber. The figure of the man sitting astride the chair is a fine detailed casting and is finished in an overall light gold-bronze color. The dial has a white porcelain type finish with black numerals and the base of the bank is a glossy black. Under the name Guessing Bank there appears in raised letters, "Pat. May 22, 1877." This lettering is worked into the design of the chair and is not too obvious.

To operate the bank a coin is dropped into the provided slot in the man's hat. The weight of the falling coin causes the hair-like pointer on the dial to spin. The pointer, as it revolves, engages the pins placed around the dial and of necessity must stop in one of the numbered areas. If the operator of the bank has guessed the indicated number prior to depositing the coin he is entitled to remove five times the amount deposited. There is a locked removable drawer in the back of the bank for this purpose.

To sum up, the Guessing Bank is a rather large impressive item which does not look like the generally accepted version of a toy mechanical bank. To the best of the writer's knowledge a limited number of these banks exist, all of which were found by Mr. Haber. It is a very interesting bank and makes an unusual addition to a collection of mechanical banks.

Pump and Bucket Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1962

A mechanical bank that was not only sold commercially through the regular trade channels, but was also given away as a complimentary item, is our choice as No. 102 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank is the Pump and Bucket, and the fact that it was given as a complimentary item by a store is all the more unusual since the inscription bearing this out is inscribed on the bank itself. This means that the concern that made the Pump and Bucket necessarily had a special pattern base plate for the exclusive use of the store involved. In a

mechanical bank this is a rather unique circumstance. True the Weeden's Plantation Savings Bank was sold commercially and also given as a premium for selling subscriptions to certain magazines such as the

Youth's Companion. All Plantation Banks, however, were regular production items with no special markings. Whether or not the manufacturer of the Pump and Bucket made others with special inscriptions for a number of different stores is not known. The specimen pictured from his collection is the only one of its type ever seen by the writer to date. Naturally and logically there were numbers of this same type produced for the store during the period of its distribution as a gift advertising item.

The bank pictured was obtained by the writer a few years ago from an antique dealer exhibiting in an antique show in Ligonier, Pa. It is in very fine original condition with most of the original paper label on the underside of the bank. Unfortunately this label does not show the manufacturer or the date the bank was made.

The label explains how to set the bank, the operation, that it can be opened when \$5 in dimes has been deposited, and so on. The original name of the bank according to the label was the Pump Registering Bank, and it explains further that it is "Guaranteed If Not Misused."

The writer has no old catalogs or information of any kind that would lead to the name of the company that made the Pump and Bucket. Also, to the best of the writer's knowledge, there are no patent papers that cover the bank. On the top section lid of the bucket is inscribed "Pat. Apd.," but this is not helpful in any fashion and does not necessarily indicate that a patent was ever granted. Logically the writer feels that the Pump and Bucket was made by some concern who more or less specialized in making registering banks of the more conventional type such as buckets, kettles, trunks and buildings.

This brings to mind that the writer receives letters from time to time suggesting that one or another of the various types of the foregoing mentioned conventional registering banks should be classified as a mechanical bank. A registering bank that simply designates the amount of money deposited is not a mechanical bank in the accepted definition of what the terminology "mechanical bank" has come to mean. A registering bank as such does admittedly have mechanism, but that in itself does not bring it into the class of a mechanical bank. There is a fine line of demarcation and the Pump and Bucket is a typical example. In operating this bank a dime is placed in the proper section in the lid of the bucket, moving the pump handle up and down causes the coin to register and drop on into the bucket and base of the bank. The fact that the operating mechanism is in conjunction with a pump and handle places this bank in the mechanical bank category, and not just the conventional registering type group. Of course it is also a registering bank, but please note that if there were no registering mechanism on the Pump and Bucket Bank it would still be a mechanical bank since the coin would drop into the bucket only when the pump handle was operated.

The Pump and Bucket Bank shown is in good original paint condition. The pump is green with a gold acorn on top, the spout and handle are silver, and there is other silver and gold outlining on the pump. The bucket and top part of the base platform are nickel plated and the section of the bank under the platform is bright red. On the lid of the bucket appears the wording "Dime Register" and in smaller letters "Pat. Apd." Along the top length of the platform is the wording "Compliments of Gusky's." This platform, by the way, is cast to represent wood type graining on boards.

Gusky's was Pittsburgh's first department store and a very unusual type of store whose background bears out the fact of the Pump and Bucket being given away as a complimentary item. Jacob Mark Gusky, a Pittsburgh philanthropist, opened his store in 1880 and it was located in

Downtown Pittsburgh on Market Street between Third and Fourth Avenue. Any boy whose father bought a suit at Gusky's could expect a toy for himself. Every Christmas a line of horse drawn buggies pulled up to the store to be filled with toys for distribution to underprivileged children. This was a generous policy of the store as established under Jacob Gusky. He was a hard industrious worker, charitable and generous, and at one time had 500 people in his employ. He died at the early age of 45 in the year 1886. The store business was continued after his death by his widow and other relatives for a time and then other small business concerns moved into the building, The last connection of the name Gusky with the store was between 1903 and 1904, and in that period Gusky's in its final stages with about 15 remaining employees went out of business.

A tablet in memory of Jacob Mark Gusky hangs in his honor in the rotunda of the Pittsburgh Courthouse.

Circus Ticket Collector Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1962

The circus is well represented by a number of the mechanical banks and, as a matter of fact, those with this theme form a surprisingly large versatile group. This fact is not too obvious at first glance. Proper consideration must be given to the mechanical banks that qualify or fit into the circus group. Those that do qualify and have been covered in the articles to date are as follows – No. 13 – Circus Bank, No. 16 – Professor Pug Frog's Great Bicycle Feat, No. 45 – Clown On Bar Bank, No. 67 – Acrobat Bank, No. 68 – Dog Tray Bank, No. 89 – Royal Trick Elephant Bank, No. 90 – Hoop-La Bank, No. 95 – Clown Bank, and No. 100 – Jumbo Bank. (The numbers shown can be checked in the February, 1962, issue of HOBBIES as to the dates the articles appeared on each bank.) There are also many others such as the Trick Dog, Clown On Globe, Humpty Dumpty, and Elephant And Three Clowns On Tub, to name a few, that will be covered in future articles. At present, however, as we reach No. 103 in the numerical classification of the mechanical banks, we have another addition to the circus group, namely the Circus Ticket Collector. And there is no question but that the ticket collector was an important part of the circus, perhaps not a popular one but certainly a necessary one.

The bank shown has been known as the Circus Ticket Collector since the writer first started collecting banks. Whether or not this is the original name used during the period of its manufacture and sale is unknown by the writer. He has never seen this bank pictured or otherwise advertised for sale in any old catalogs or other similar type material. Also no patent papers are known to exist that cover the bank. So there is practically no factual background information as to the period of manufacture, designer, manufacturer, or anything else. The bank is very similar to the Peg Leg Beggar (HOBBIES, October, 1960) and very possibly could have been made by the same concern. Since background information on the Peg Leg Beggar is also sadly lacking, this possibility offers no help.

The bank pictured was obtained some years ago from Rockwell Gardiner, a well known Connecticut antique dealer. It is in fine complete original condition and in good paint except for the face. There is a reason for this, however. The entire head was first painted black and then the flesh color face was applied over the black. This tended to allow for easy chipping and less adherence to the surface. Some of the other banks have this same condition and one that comes to mind at the moment is the Octagonal Fort. Here the ocean surface paint, between the cannon and fort, was applied over a hard glossy black paint and thus tended to flake off and not adhere too well. The

Circus Ticket Collector is painted as follows: Black hair, flesh color face with black eyes and red mouth; the barrel and the coat and trousers of the man are a japanned type finish, and the barrel has red stripings on the bands. The shirt front of the man is yellow with a white collar, the shoes are black, and hands flesh color.

The operation of the bank is simple. When a coin is inserted in the slot in the top of the barrel it causes the head of the man to nod forward in a gesture of appreciation or thanks.

The Circus Ticket Collector is a rather scarce little bank to find in an original specimen. Some 20 odd years or more ago a certain party who dealt in mechanical banks at the time had a number of these banks recast from an original specimen. These recasts are still floating around, however, it is not difficult to distinguish them from an original.

In furtherance of last month's article on the Pump and Bucket Bank, the writer has a fine hardbound Marshall Field Catalog dated for the Season 1892-1893. There is a large excellent illustration of the Pump and Bucket in this catalog with the following text accompanying the illustration:

"No. 127, Size 5½ inches high, 6 long, 3 deep. This article is a combination of a mechanical and registering bank. It is a very attractive novelty and cannot fail to please. The bucket is designed for dimes, in ordinary use only, and not for mutilated or old-fashioned coins of approximately the same size. Put a dime in the slot and push the pump handle up and down, when the amount will be correctly registered. When \$5 have been deposited the lid of the bucket can be taken off; when replaced it is ready for business. If the directions pasted on the bottom of each bank are complied with, it cannot fail to work properly. Handsomely finished in nickel and wood colors, and packed one in a wooden box, per doz.\$8.50."

This information from the Marshall Field Catalog is quite helpful as it definitely establishes the period in which the bank was made and sold, and also proves the bank was sold through regular trade channels as well as being given as a complimentary item as pointed out in last month's article.

Hen and Chick Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1962

Farm and country life is accurately depicted by a limited number of the mechanical banks, and while this is a most appealing subject matter, it is surprising how few banks were made utilizing this theme. Only two banks of the 103 covered by the series of articles to date fit into this category. One is the Milking Cow (HOBBIES, August 1953), a fine, particularly desirable mechanical bank, and the other is Uncle Remus (HOBBIES, October 1953). A possible third border-line bank is the Squirrel And Tree Stump (HOBBIES, July 1960). As we reach No. 104 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks we have chosen the Hen And Chick which well represents this group. The other rural type banks to be dealt with in future articles are Mule Entering Barn, Boys Stealing Watermelons, Boy Robbing Bird's Nest, and possibly the Rooster and several of the Rabbit banks. These banks comprise the comparatively small group representing farm and country. It is interesting to note that this same condition exists in the horse drawn cast iron toys as well. Those such as the Hay Rake, Mower, Plow, and Hay Wagon are rather scarce and there were not many different types made. One of the Royal Circus toys is a farm type and it is a scarce article. This is the Farmer Van Wagon and it has a rather large head of a farmer that moves up and down, in and out of the top of the van. In any event, it has always seemed somewhat unusual to the writer that the rural theme with its very definite appeal was not more widely used as a subject matter for

mechanical banks as well as cast iron toys.

Charles A. Bailey, probably the best and greatest of all the designers of mechanical banks, was responsible for the Hen And Chick. This, of course, is only one of the many banks that he designed and patented. As a point of interest, he is credited with the Milking Cow and he definitely designed the Boy Robbing Bird's Nest. As a matter of fact the writer has Bailey's original sketch of the Boy Robbing Bird's Nest, and it was apparently his first intent to call the bank the Robber Bank since this name is shown on the bank in the sketch. Bailey patented the Hen And Chick October 1, 1901 as a design patent. He assigned the patent to J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. The bank as made by Stevens is practically identical to the design patent drawings.

The bank shown is in what one would term mint condition and was obtained by the writer years ago in New England. It is painted in bright attractive colors. The base is an overall green with blue and yellow flowers and highlighting of leaves and stems in a gold bronze. The large hen is white with red comb and wattles, yellow eyes and a brown beak. On one side the yellow head of a small chick is peaking out from under her wing, and on the other side there are heads of two chicks in the same fashion. The little full-bodied chick that comes forward from under the hen (not shown in the picture) is yellow with small black eyes and a brown beak.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the provided slot in front of the hen as shown in the picture. The lever is then turned over in the direction of the rear of the bank. In so doing the hen starts to cluck, opening and closing her beak rapidly, then the little chick springs forward from under the hen and pecks the coin into the bank. At the same time, the hen bends her head down as though watching the chick. Releasing the lever returns all working parts to the position shown in the picture.

In conclusion, the Hen And Chick Bank certainly has a definite charm about it. It's a most attractive bank and the addition of the Bailey touch very definitely adds to its desirability.

Schley Bottling Up Cervera Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1962

Mechanical banks cover a broad area of subject matter, mainly Americana, and those having historical significance are always of considerable interest. Individuals who have followed these series articles are familiar with the fact that a number of the banks covered by past articles do have historical background involving prominent personalities, events, discoveries, wars, and so on. Many of the banks utilizing history as their subject matter are quite rare, a few are rather common. As we reach No. 105 in the numerical classification we have chosen a unique historical Spanish-American War bank to occupy this position. This unusual bank is the Schley Bottling Up Cervera. It is a complete departure, appearance-wise, from any of the other mechanical banks since it is in the form of a bottle with a large stopper and thus represents an object. Mr. Hegarty, the present owner of the bank, expressed his opinion to the writer that it looks like an old inkwell bottle.

Circumstances concerning the designer, manufacturer, and so on of the Schley Bank are sadly lacking and there is no factual information to pass along. There are no identification marks or dates. On the back of the top part of the bank scratched into the paint appears "Apr. 15 '99 V.M.". Mr. Hegarty feels that on this date in 1899 the bank was given by someone or to someone with the initials V.M. The writer is inclined to agree with this as similar circumstances are known to exist with some other mechanical banks and, for that matter, with other types of today's collectibles which were given as gifts in past years.

The bank shown was purchased some time ago by Mr. Fred Draper at an antique show in Ephrata, Pa. It then passed into the hands of one of the pioneer collectors where it remained for a number of years. Frank Ball obtained the bank from this collector recently and passed it along to the present owner, L.C. Hegarty. Needless to say, Mr. Hegarty was quite pleased to add the bank to his fine collection.

The bank pictured is in good condition and completely original with one exception. A photo of Schley has at some time been placed over the original paper sketch of the Admiral. This sketch was damaged and apparently could not be restored properly. The paint is in very good condition and the colors are as follows: The entire piece is painted black, the lettering is in red, and the outlining around the lettering and the stopper is in gold. There is a cloud and sunburst effect around the picture section and the American flag and Spanish flag are painted in their respective appropriate colors.

The operation of the bank is unique but simple. The bank is shown in the accompanying photo after the action has taken place. To reset the mechanism the operator picks the bank up and gives it a quick jerk to the left. This causes the picture of Cervera to appear in place of Schley. When a coin, preferably one of the large old style pennies, is placed in the slot in top of the stopper the picture of Schley replaces that of Cervera, thus 'bottling' him up. A coin cannot be placed in the bank when Schley's picture is showing.

The bank is cast iron and approximately 5 inches high, 3-3/8 inches wide, and 2-3/8 inches deep. It is made in two half sections held together by one screw. The back section has perforations in the bottom half and coins are removed by taking the bank apart. The inside operating mechanism consists of a cast iron piece in a somewhat oval or lobe shape. The front of this piece is covered with paper with the pictures of the Admirals thereon. The back of the piece contains four pins placed in such fashion that a coin, in contacting the pins, causes the piece to flop over showing Schley's picture. Transversely then, when the pins are in this position a coin cannot be inserted as the pins now block the coin slot. It bears mention that this inside part is also weighted in such a way so that it stops in place exposing Cervera, and does not move until a coin is inserted in the bank.

In conclusion a shore resume of the event involving the two Admirals is in order to explain the "bottling up" angle. It's a rather lengthy story but briefly, Winfield Scott Schley, 1839-1911, was an American Naval Officer in the Spanish-American War involved in battle with a Spanish Naval Officer, Pascual Cervera Y Topeta Cervera, 1839-1909. In 1898 Cervera was chosen to command the Spanish Fleet and on July 3rd of that year he was in the bay at Santiago de Cuba with his ships. Schley blocked up the bay with the ships under his command and thus "bottled up" Cervera. Cervera could not navigate from therein under these circumstances. Schley received credit for this maneuver, however, he was late in carrying it out under orders from W.T. Samson and thus endangered the movements of a ship named Texas. This delay in tactics was not brought out until 1901, and while there were some issues made of this at the time no serious charges of damaging consequences ever resulted.

Bank of Education and Economy

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1962

Education and economy are two words which are probably used with greater frequency today than at any time during our history. We continually hear and read about the importance of

education on the television, radio, newspapers, and so on. The same applies to our economy. So these two words, over the years, have continued to attain more important meaning and more frequent usage right up to our present time. Now let's go back a number of years to 1895 and we find ourselves in a period where some foresighted individual or individuals used the two words in combination to appropriately name a mechanical bank. This bank, our choice as No. 106 in the numerical classification, is the Bank Of Education And Economy, and its action and appearance carry through and well illustrates the chosen name. It is a very neat trim bank and is unique and completely different than any of the other mechanicals.

The specimen shown is from the ever increasing collection of Leon Perelman, a more or less recent and most avid collector of mechanical banks. It is in nice complete original condition and was purchased by Mr. Perelman from an antique dealer near Fostoria, Ohio, about a year ago.

Unlike a number of the mechanical banks, the background of the Bank Of Education And Economy is easily determined as this information appears in detail on the bank itself. It is unusual for a mechanical bank to be dated and also have the maker's name thereon. On the front, under the name, as shown in the picture, is the date "Patented April 30, 1895" with "Pat's Pend'g." On the underside of the base appears the name of the concern who made the bank—"Mfg-By Proctor-Raymond Co., Buffalo, N.Y." It is made of cast iron with a nickel plated finish. The top, sides and back are cast with a very attractive scrollwork which definitely adds to the appearance of the bank.

Actually, like the Pump And Bucket and several others, the Bank Of Education And Economy is a dime savings device. That is to say it is necessary to use a 10c piece for proper operation. The coin is placed in the provided slot in the top of the bank. Then the knob on the right, shown in the picture, is turned clockwise and this causes a paper slip to come up through a slot provided for this purpose. Part of the paper slip is shown in the photograph. As this action takes place the dime goes into the glass front section. The slip of paper can then be torn off and the bank is ready for another coin. The paper slip has a question printed on the front and a quotation or saying on the back. The question is to be answered by the operator, of course, and at the same time he learns a saying or quotation.

The mechanism inside the bank is very well made and will not operate, nor can the knob be turned, until a dime is dropped into the coin slot. The dimes accumulate and stack neatly in the glass front section. As they continue to stack up a lever rises higher and higher from the top of the bank. After a certain number have been saved the lever is depressed and this automatically releases the sliding coin trap in the base. The many different questions and quotations are printed on a rather sizeable continuous roll of paper inside the bank.

The Bank Of Education And Economy is a very unusual little bank, and in conclusion it is of interest to note several of the wordings that appear on the original complete roll of the writer's specimen of the bank:

Question—"Where was Samuel Sullivan Cox born?"

Quotation on back—"There are three things difficult —to keep a secret, to suffer an injury, to use leisure—Voltaire."

Question—"What classic literature has Mr. Gladstone studied very carefully?"

Quotation on back—"The true university of these days is a collection of books—Carlyle."

Question—"What became of William Couper in 1763?"

Quotation on back—"Strong reasons make strong actions—Shakespeare."

Educational, philosophical, and an interesting bank to have in a collection.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1962

Judging by the writer's recent correspondence there exists considerable confusion and misunderstanding concerning certain mechanical banks. In particular there has been an increasing number of letters about the Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears), Dinah, and the Tin Monkey made by J. Chein Company. This confusion seems so widespread that it warrants attention and, therefore, the writer decided to reach all interested parties in this fashion rather than attempting to repeatedly write individual letters on the same subjects.

The bank most often questioned, increasingly so in recent times, is the Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears). This is an English bank which is not necessarily a Jolly Nigger, that is to say this name does not appear on the bank itself. However, all bust type banks of this general appearance are referred to as Jolly Niggers unless some specific name appears on the bank. There were many different types of negro bust banks made in England and some have names thereon and some do not. A man by the name of Starkie designed the original Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears) and his name 'Starkie's Pat' appears across the back of the originals as produced under his Registered Design. The ears on his banks are located forward near the eyes on each side of the face. Some were made with a high hat and all were made of aluminum. Now these are the old valuable type of Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears), and only a few originals have been found to date. In 1948 to 1950 a member of the Starkie family registered another type of Jolly Nigger which moves its ears. This bank is quite different than the old type although it too is made of aluminum. It has a waffle like base plate and the initials 'TAD' are cast on this part. This is the easiest way to identify it. The name Starkie does not appear across the back, the ears are centered between the front and back half of the head and not forward by the eyes. This is easily determined by anyone looking at the bank. These recent types with movable ears do not have value as collector's items and it will undoubtedly be some years before they do.

In all cases where people have written to the writer thinking they have a valuable bank they have had the modern type of Jolly Nigger with moving ears. So caution is advised to anyone who is offered a bank of this type. Please let it be understood that there is nothing wrong about any of this situation as both type banks are authentic, the only wrong that can happen is if an individual knowingly offers one of the modern type as an old one. And there is nothing anyone can do to control a circumstance of this kind.

Now another factor enters the picture here, and this has to do with exaggerated values placed on the old original Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears). This has occurred in recent years through the issuing of value lists on mechanical banks by some individuals who know nothing about mechanical banks or their value. They just publish something and some degree of authenticity is obtained merely by the fact that it is published. This misleading information does harm and no good to the hobby. As example, an inflated value will be placed on the Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears), and some really much more valuable bank will be listed at a lesser value. This helps no one, collector or dealer alike. Please understand that the old Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears) is a good mechanical bank and commands a fair price, however, along with some of the other mechanical banks certain spurious value lists have placed them beyond their present day worth. Transversely others are valued below their present day worth. Unfortunately this may sound confusing and it is, particularly to those not too well versed on the subject of mechanical banks such as new collectors or dealers who come into the field.

Generally speaking, mechanical banks as to price have been pretty much a hush-hush proposition for years, especially so with the very desirable rare banks. In years past some rather accurate price value lists have been published, however, these have become outdated within a relative short period of their publication. Some of these lists of a few years back do have value as a guidepost, but they are no longer obtainable. After all, when all is said and done, the buyer and seller, plus supply and demand, establish prices, and mechanical banks, along with paperweights, coins, and some other collectibles have advanced rapidly in price, particularly in the past fifteen years or so. And all indications are that they will continue to advance if we are to judge by past performances.

Now briefly to Dinah, another English bank. The type with the cast iron arm or "flowing sleeve" is somewhat more desirable than the later type pressed steel arm. The Dinah Bank is one of the only mechanicals which has come down in price. This is due to the fact that persistent effort in seeking banks in England has resulted in quite a few Dinahs turning up in recent years. One must remember that the bust type of bank was an English specialty and they were very popular in their day. The Jolly Nigger (High Hat) is another mechanical that has leveled off in price along with Dinah, which is against the trend, but with a definite reason. Numbers have turned up and thus a proper level of value has been established. This does not lessen their desirability, only their price. Also this does not affect other of the rare desirable English banks as they just don't turn up. These banks have continued to increase in value and desirability. Dinah, Jolly Nigger (High Hat), and some of the other Jolly Nigger busts are simply re-establishing their price level in a proper area compared to the rest of the mechanical banks.

As to the tin Monkey Bank made by J. Chein where a deposited coin causes the monkey to tip his hat, this was made in the 1940's. It cannot be considered as an antique collectible bank, and while they have been offered for sale by some antique dealers, this has not changed the facts. Most certainly at some time in the future the bank will probably be listed and have a collector's value, but it is of too recent manufacture to be listed at this time. This also applies to the Uncle Wiggily and Clown Bust made by Chein in the same period.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1962

A considerable number of the letters received by the writer concerning mechanical banks consists of questions which are quite often of general interest to all collectors of these interesting animated toy savings devices, and for that matter to dealers as well. Continuing along with the same trend as last month's article, it is felt by the writer that a few more of these questions are worthy of attention and important enough to be dealt with here in this fashion. Naturally all queries received by the writer cannot be answered in article form, some, however, do bear special attention and are important enough from a general information standpoint.

Getting back to the English mechanicals, we must realize that there has been greater and increasing interest in these banks in more or less recent times. This is quite natural as in the earlier days of collecting mechanical banks a far greater degree of concentration and effort was placed on finding the ones made in our country. They offered the line of least resistance, were more readily available and obtainable, and for some of these earlier years the English banks just didn't have the same recognition and acceptance. This seeming lack of interest in English Banks was mainly due to the fact that no one knew anything about them and they just were not available. No one had ever

taken the time and effort to dig into the situation and ferret out the facts as to what banks were made over there, where they were made, by what company, and so on. More misinformation and conjecture existed than actual truth and this didn't help the situation any and, as a matter of fact, retarded it. It is not necessary to go into detail here as to the effort and time put into correcting the foreign mechanical bank problem in general, and the English banks in particular. Suffice to say that today we have considerable information and background. The English banks, as well as German and others, have all come into their own and are no longer mysteries in most cases.

It has been well pointed out that the bust type bank was a very popular item in England, and the Dinah, Jolly Nigger (High Hat), and some others have re-established a value level. They were made over a period of years in considerable quantities and persistent effort in seeking them out has resulted in a number being found. Do not, however, be misled by this as some of the later bust type banks are very hard to find as they were made in smaller quantities and manufactured for a short period of time. Little Moe and the Clown Bust are typical examples of this fact. Also concentrated effort for some years now has not resulted in changing the situation on fine rare banks like the Football Bank, Wimbledon, Tommy Bank, Giant In Tower, and John Bull's Money Box, to name a few. At this stage of the game it's fairly safe to say that things will remain pretty much as they are with English banks. A great deal of interest has been generated in England in seeking out and looking for mechanical banks, and the general situation over there is now comparable to that in the United States. In closing on the English and foreign banks for the present, it bears mention as to the surprising number of American made mechanical banks that have turned up in England. This is not really too surprising when one considers the numbers of mechanical banks that were exported to England by some manufacturers in the United States, in particular the J. & E. Stevens Company. The opposite is true in our case, as most of the English banks have turned up in England, with a scattering of them being found in our country.

Now we will try to settle the problem of the Feed The Kitty Bank. Facts are facts and when they are known there is not much point in disputing them. The Feed The Kitty Bank was never manufactured commercially or put on the market for sale to the public. All examples of this bank that exist today were made some years ago by a party in the East who borrowed the original patent pattern model from the New York inventor himself, cast a number of examples of the bank and painted them to look old and so on. This was not done with the consent of the inventor. In any event, there is no such thing as an authentic Feed The Kitty Bank and there never will be. There is an authentic pattern of the bank and that's all there is. As a pattern it is in a class with some of the other pattern banks such as the Blacksmith, Twin Bank, and Hall's Yankee Notion Bank, which, like Feed The Kitty, were never produced commercially. Some patterns of commercially produced mechanical banks also exist. The existing patterns of banks, however, form their own group and are known as such. Now if a collector wants to have one of the Feed The Kitty Banks in his collection, it is certainly his privilege to do so, but it's something else again if he represents it as an authentic mechanical bank, as this it can never be. It is simply an oddity, the same as Long May It Wave and the Carnival Bank. One slight difference is the fact that these two banks were represented as authentic banks when sold some years ago.

This leads us back to certain individuals who have published supposedly authentic rating and value lists on mechanical banks when they actually have limited knowledge on the subject. Feed The Kitty, Carnival, Long May It Wave, and others have been listed as authentic mechanical banks. This is only misleading to both collector and dealer and it is hoped by the writer that the information herein will clarify the situation.

In closing, there is another frequently questioned problem and this has to do with the percentage

or degree of decrease in value of repaired banks or banks with replaced figures or parts as compared to complete original specimens. This is an involved problem and will be dealt with in the near future since it is quite a subject in itself. So to all those who have written on this problem be advised that this subject will be covered.

National Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1962

Every mechanical bank has its own individual points of interest and each has its own particular appeal. Some are especially attractive, some have extra clever action, others have appealing subject matter, and so on. The individual banks then, of course, form into different groups and these groupings are of considerable interest since each has its special points of appeal.

The idea of grouping banks into certain categories such as historical, bust, buildings, shooting, and circus, and so on, is not only a basically good idea to begin with, but it also offers collectors the opportunity of getting together certain banks that have special interest to the respective collector. As an example, elephants in all forms, shapes and sizes were a favorite of the late James C. Jones, an early collector of mechanical banks. So naturally the group of mechanical banks comprising this category were of greatest interest to him, although he collected all types.

Now another factor of importance in placing mechanical banks into certain categories has to do with the spiraling prices of these desirable collector items. Frankly speaking, a considerable amount of money can be invested if one attempts to collect all the known mechanical banks—this plus the fact that many are not available at any price. So by forming the banks into groups it does enable a person to specialize in a certain field of collecting mechanical banks. The same as with coins, stamps, and other collectibles. In this fashion the investment involved is considerably less, one is actually collecting banks but just not trying to get all the different types. Please understand the writer is not recommending any particular field or group as his interest lies in all of them and he collects all the types of mechanical banks that were made. However, like all collectors, he has his special favorites and reasons for liking one bank more than another.

Actually the writer has stressed the grouping of mechanical banks largely due to the fact of so often hearing the remark as to how an average person can collect or start a collection in today's market. Well it's up to the discretion of each individual and certainly a good conservative method of approach is to specialize in one or more of the various groups.

A very interesting fine category of banks is the building type group. In this category are some of the more common on up to some of the rarest and most desirable banks. As we reach No. 107 in the numerical classification we have chosen the National Bank which well represents the building type of bank. The National can also be placed in another category — the cashier or actual "bank" type of bank. It is not unusual for a bank to fit into several different groups. As example, there are a number of cashier or "bank" type banks such as Hall's Excelsior, Magic, Home, Novelty, Hall's Lilliput, and so on. All these also belong in the building group of banks. Then the Magic Bank can be placed in a third group, the magic type itself. So a collector who may wish to specialize in the building type can acquire some very interesting specimens with good variety.

The National Bank was patented August 5, 1873 by H.W. Prouty of Boston, Mass. The patent papers are quite detailed and explicit and contain five diagrams of the bank. J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., most likely manufactured the bank and in so doing they followed the pattern papers very closely, the finished product being practically identical to that described and

pictured in the papers.

The specimen shown is owned by Leon Perelman who is doing a very commendable job of formulating a good collection of mechanical banks. Mr. Perelman obtained the bank a few years back from the late Henry Miller, a dealer who specialized in the field of cast iron toys. This example of the National Bank has the name in raised letters. Some others, including the writer's example, have the name thereon in the same fashion, but the letters are not raised. The bank shown is in good original condition and painted as follows: The roof is red with yellow eaves; the front, back and sides of the building are a cream white, and the ornate filigreed windows (one each side and back) are green. Outlining of various parts is done in blue and the base is yellow. The name National Bank is in black and the wording "Receiving Teller" appears on the inside of the door. The figure of the teller is tin covered with a printed paper.

To operate the bank a small brass knob on the door is pulled forward, this causes the door to turn on a center axis. In turning the door a full half revolution it snaps into place in the position shown in the accompanying photograph. As the door revolves into position the figure of the teller (inside the bank) moves from the right to the left and centers itself to appear in the back of the opening in the door. A coin is then placed on the tray located on the door, the operator presses the small brass knob to the right, the door rapidly snaps closed throwing the coin into the bank, and the teller moves swiftly to the right inside the bank and disappears from view. The bank must be reset each time a coin is to be deposited.

The National Bank is a rather difficult item to find, particularly in good condition. It is an early item as mechanical banks go and apparently was not made in any great quantities nor over a long period of time. The writer has never seen one of these banks in what he would call fine or mint condition.

Grenadier Bank, Volunteer Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1962

Classifying two mechanical banks in the same article is a complete departure from all previous articles since their inception. Since, however, both the Grenadier, No. 108 in the numerical classification, and Volunteer, No. 109, are so much alike, each made in England, and each a direct copy of our Creedmore Bank, they lend themselves very well to being written up together.

Before going further, let it be understood that the bank pictured is the Grenadier and not our popular Creedmore. The writer is being specific about this since there have been numerous occasions whereby Creedmore Banks have been mistaken for either the Volunteer or Grenadier. This was further emphasized by the fact that for numbers of years there was some uncertainty about the authenticity of the Grenadier and Volunteer and some thought existed as to their being recast specimens of the Creedmore with the name altered in each case. This is not so and the Volunteer and Grenadier are authentic English mechanical banks, although they were copied from our Creedmore.

The Grenadier Bank pictured is from the collection of Leon Perelman and he obtained it from an antique dealer who had purchased the bank in England. It is in very nice condition and painted as follows: The base has a grass-like surface in green, the tree trunk is brown with a yellow top and white target section. The soldier has gray trousers, black coat with yellow belt, and a red cape. His hat is red with a yellow band and he has flesh color face and hands.

To operate the bank the coin firing mechanism is set in place by pushing back on the small

wedge-shaped piece on top of the gun barrel. In so doing this causes the head of the figure to tilt forward as though taking aim. A coin is then placed on the barrel and the right foot of the figure is depressed. This triggers the mechanism and the coin is fired into the tree striking a bell therein. The head, at the same time, returns to the position as shown in the picture. To further add to the action a powder cap can be inserted in the provided section of the gun, and this is fired as the coin goes into the tree.

Please note the hat on the specimen pictured. This is similar to our Creedmore, which, however, does not have the peak. The Grenadier was also made with a different type hat. This type, which is the one the writer has, is about twice as high and has a very small peak. The name "Grenadier" appears inscribed on the base plate in either case, and other than the hat the banks are identical.

The Volunteer Bank is painted similarly to the Grenadier and operates in the same fashion. All known Volunteer Banks, however, have a hat just like our Creedmore, with no peak.

Neither the Grenadier or Volunteer have a date shown on the bank, only the name in each case. It is known, however, from old English catalogs in the writer's possession that they were made in the period of the 1890's. It is interesting to note that the original illustrations of the Grenadier show the bank with the higher type hat and small peak.

The name Grenadier has some significance. In England in the mid 17th century a special group of powerful soldiers with exceptional physiques was formed as a military employment within the companies. This special group of soldiers, termed the Grenades, consisted of individuals known as Grenadiers. They wore a distinctive type uniform and a mitre shaped hat which was more appropriate to throwing grenades. The Grenadiers were mainly used in siege and trench warfare. After the 18th century they were retained as storm troops. In the British Army the Grenadiers were a special task force until around 1850, then in World War I they were trained in the firing of rifles as well as throwing grenades. After this war they disappeared as a unit as all infantry-men were trained to throw grenades and so on. In general the terminology "Grenadier" has always referred to a member of a special regiment or corps, as example, a Grenadier of Napoleon's Guard.

The name Volunteer also has some significance. The term "Volunteer" originated in England around 1757 and its usage was in general reference to soldiers who were not professionals or not permanently under arms. They were put in and out of service over the years. In 1863 a new act was passed whereby all volunteers were to be immediately reorganized upon any possibility of an expected invasion. There were several occasions of reorganization and one of the last was in 1907 and 1908. This marked one of the last reorganizations under the name of Volunteers. They are now called the Territorials or the Territorial Army.

In conclusion, there is no question but that the Volunteer and Grenadier Banks were copied from our Creedmore, whose original date of manufacture is considerably earlier than either of the two English banks. However, while very much alike, there are differences in the castings, particularly on the tree section, the hats, and so on. Generally, appearance-wise, they are very similar, operate the same, and are even painted similarly. Some, however, have red coats with black capes, but this is of no particular significance.

Boy Robbing Bird's Nest Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1963

Of particular interest are certain of the mechanical banks that have as their theme various forms of object lessons. These object lessons vary, some are instructive in teaching a child what to do and

others are constructive in showing or demonstrating what not to do. The Boy Robbing Bird's Nest is an excellent example of the latter type, and is our choice as No. 110 in the numerical classification. All the mechanical banks were made to encourage the habit of saving in an amusing or entertaining fashion and were, of course, in most cases a toy as well as a savings device. Those such as the Boy Robbing Bird's Nest with the additional instructive feature are of considerable interest and in a class of their own. Some of the other mechanical banks in this same area of the instructive element are the Picture Gallery, Bank of Education and Economy, Boys Stealing Watermelons, and Uncle Remus.

The Boy Robbing Bird's Nest is a very attractive, well made mechanical bank and is an original creation of the outstanding designer, Charles A. Bailey. It was produced and marketed by the leading manufacturer of mechanical banks, the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., and when sold by them it was known as the "Tree Bank." No name appears on the bank itself and for some years now, for collecting purposes, it has been known as the Boy Robbing Bird's Nest. This is more definitive of the bank itself and actually closer to the name originally planned for the bank by Bailey. The writer, as mentioned in the Hen And Chick Bank article (June, 1962), has Bailey's original sketch of the Boy Robbing Bird's Nest and the name "Robber Bank" appears on the base of the bank in this drawing. Obviously this was not a particularly appealing name and was subsequently discarded in favor of the more attractive, simple name, "Tree Bank." This did not, of course, detract from the obvious object lesson of what could happen to boys who would climb trees to steal bird's eggs. As produced commercially the bank is practically identical in appearance to Bailey's original sketch, with one exception. There is a large stick leaning against the tree in the drawing. This was probably intended to indicate that the boy on the limb had unsuccessfully tried to get the bird's nest by using the stick before climbing the tree.

Leon Perelman is the owner of the fine specimen pictured and, as can be judged from the photograph, the bank is in excellent original condition. Mr. Perelman obtained the bank from an Eastern antique dealer a few years ago. The paint is in mint condition with colors as follows: The base is an overall green highlighted with gold. Pink flowers appear on the base, along with the boy's gray hat. The tree is brown with greenish-silver vines climbing up the trunk, red berries appear on these vines. The two birds are yellow. The boy has an orange shirt, blue trousers, and brown shoes and hair. Three small white eggs are in the nest.

To operate the bank a coin is first placed in the provided slot. This slot runs vertically in the trunk and is located just under the branch which the boy is climbing. The coin when placed in the slot stays in place protruding somewhat from the trunk. The lever to operate the bank is located just below the bird on the left. When this lever is pressed down the entire branch of the tree, including the boy and bird's nest, falls and hits against the trunk, striking the coin and knocking it into the bank. The action is good and very effective. To reset the bank for operation the branch is manually raised to the position as shown in the picture. The branch locks in place and stays there until the lever is again pressed.

There are no markings, dates or anything else on the bank. However, the bank speaks for itself, as it is so obviously Bailey's work. This is substantiated, of course, by the original Bailey's sketch in the writer's possession. As to the date or period in which it was manufactured, this is established by a dated 1906 catalog of the J. & E. Stevens Company which pictures the bank. The Shoot The Chute Bank, another Bailey design, also appears in this catalog. Thus apparently both banks were put on the market about the same time.

Bailey's Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1963

Designers of mechanical banks were located in various parts of the country, but New England was the most active area of this specialized vocation. This was largely due to the talents and work of one man, Charles A. Bailey, the greatest and most outstanding of all the mechanical bank designers. He not only designed banks, but he also manufactured some himself.

Bailey's first known effort in the field of banks was a representation of a pocket type watch made of a lead-like material or white metal. This was a still bank and he manufactured it in his own shop in Cobalt, Conn. He patented this item as a toy money box November 25, 1879. In the papers he referred to it as a "toy watch bank" and went on to outline the convenience of the item, as well as the inexpensive advantages the bank offered insofar as manufacturing costs were involved. His next bank, the Baby Elephant Bank Unlocks At X O'Clock, was patented November 16, 1880. This was his first known mechanical bank, and again he was the inventor, designer, pattern maker and manufacturer. Please understand he made some mechanical banks in certain periods that are as yet not identified with a certain date. The Chinaman In Boat and Darky Fisherman Bank are two of these. Also it is possible that he made a bank or banks which to date have remained undiscovered. In any event, the Baby Elephant Bank is recognized as his first mechanical and, of course, the date of this bank is definitely known from the patent papers.

Soon after this, and while producing some banks on his own, Bailey started some design and pattern work for the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. This had to do with mechanical banks, of course, but he also worked with toys, and among these he was responsible for some fine bell ringing toys such as The Landing Of Columbus, Drummer Boy, and Evening News Baby Quieter. Pattern parts made by Bailey were found at the Stevens Company some years ago for a Christmas Morn bell ringer, but this was apparently never put into production.

After a few years of doing fine ingenious designing and pattern work for Stevens, Bailey moved to Middletown, Conn., and opened a pattern shop there. This was in the period of 1885 to 1890. He then went to work for Stevens as their exclusive pattern maker and bank designer and continued with them until around 1915, at which time he again opened a shop of his own in Cromwell, Conn.

Mechanical banks were apparently his first love, but he did make some other out-of-the-ordinary things. For example, the writer has an unusual inkwell in the shape of a large pipe with a hinged covered lid on the bowl. It is very ornate and made of the white metal type material which he used so often when manufacturing things himself. A large rose is on the cover, on the front of the pipe bowl is the bust of a woman, and on the back there is a reclining figure. There are vines and flowers all over the piece, and the entire pipe is finished in a bronze gold color. The wording "Pipe Of Peace" appears along one side, and on the underside of the finely stippled base in raised letters there appears "C. A. Bailey, Designer."

Our concern and interest, of course, has to do with the mechanical banks that he was directly responsible for. Please keep in mind that he had a hand in a number of banks which we are not sure of and possibly never will be. As a designer and pattern maker at Stevens he conceived and made many banks and bank parts, as well as toys and toy parts, and most likely toy pistols as well. We do have an accurate setup on what banks and bank patterns we know he made, plus those identifiable as such by his distinctive type work. Following is a list of these banks:

Stevens Foundry: Gem Registering, World's Fair Bank, U.S. & Spain Bank, Chief Big Moon, Hen & Chick, Shoot The Chute, Teddy & The Bear, Billy Goat Bank, North Pole Bank, Lion

Hunter Bank, Called Out Bank, Boy Scout Bank, Bread Winner Bank, Bismark Bank, Football Bank (Darky & Watermelon), Dentist, Boy Robbing Bird's Nest (Tree Bank), Professor Pug Frog, Perfection Registering Bank, Milking Cow Bank, Jonah & The Whale (Jonah Emerges), Germania Exchange Bank, Bad Accident.

Cobalt & Middletown: Baby Elephant Bank (Unlocks X O'Clock), Trick Watch Bank, Darky Fisherman Bank, Springing Cat Bank, Chinaman In Boat.

Patterns—Stevens Foundry: Aunt Dinah & The Fairy, Wishbone Bank.

Attributed to Bailey—Stevens Foundry: Bull & Bear Bank, Girl in Victorian Chair, Red Riding Hood Bank.

From the foregoing, please note that Bailey is personally responsible for at least 29 mechanical banks. This represents over 10% of all the known mechanical banks, both domestic and foreign, so we can readily realize what an important factor he was to the mechanical bank era.

Charles Bailey had many patents on mechanical banks and in some cases sold the rights of the patents to J. & E. Stevens Company. The writer has in his possession an original handwritten letter by Bailey to Stevens. This letter, including the letterhead, is as follows:

CHAS. A. BAILEY
Designer and Sculptor
Dies, Moulds and Patterns to Order.
Portraits and Busts in Bronze and Plaster a Specialty.

Middletown, Conn.,

March 15, 1887

Paid Mar. 16th

For and in consideration of the sum of two hundred dollars I agree to sell all my right, title and interest in a certain new Toy Money Bank to The J. & E. Stevens Co. of Cromwell, Conn. Said bank is composed of an ornamental base representing a landscape a pond stream of water etc. the principal feature is a Frog which is made to jump out of the pond represented there is an Indian Chief and Squaw which is made to work by the mechanism which causes the frog to jump a wigwam etc. goes to make up the character of the design which is called a Surprise in Camp.

Chas. A. Bailey

The name "Surprise In Camp" referred to in the foregoing letter was Bailey's original idea for the name of the bank we know as Chief Big Moon. Stevens, when the decision was made to put the bank into production, decided to change the name for one reason or another. This was not an unusual circumstance. Refer to the January, 1963, article on the Boy Robbing Bird's Nest. Bailey originally named this the "Robber Bank," but Stevens advertised and sold this as the "Tree Bank."

There is more to be said of Bailey and at some time in the future we will go into further details. In closing at this time, however, and as further proof of Bailey's leadership as a designer of mechanical banks look over the foregoing list of his banks once more. One then realizes that if he had just the banks that Bailey designed or made he would have a fine collection in itself. Some real rarities are included, as well as a number of the most attractive and interesting mechanical banks ever made.

The J. & E. Stevens Co.

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1963

On numerous occasions individuals have approached the writer as to when he was going to do a complete book on mechanical banks, as to when he was going to write a book or more articles on cast iron toys, and when he would write about some of his more personal experiences in collecting banks and toys over the years.

Well right now the writer is bedded down with a bad case of flu, and this month's article is overdue. So this will be an opportune time for a discussion about the writer's experiences at the J. & E. Stevens Company. This is well in keeping and follows through with last month's writeup on Bailey's banks.

The J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., manufactured approximately one-third of all the known different mechanical banks. They were the most important factor in the mechanical bank era, and their banks are among the finest, most attractive, and best made. They were the pioneers in this field and made the first known dated cast iron mechanical bank. This is the Hall's Excelsior of 1869. A tin alligator type toy was made by another company a couple of years earlier, but this is not a mechanical bank as some people think. It is merely a toy that employed the use of a coin in its action. The coin was never deposited in any fashion and no receptacle existed that would hold coins. The Alligator is an interesting toy in itself but cannot be classed as a mechanical bank. So Stevens made the earliest known dated mechanical bank, and after all the years of intensive collecting it is very unlikely that any earlier dated bank is going to turn up.

The writer over a period of years spent considerable time at the Stevens Company and fortunately most of this time was in the 1930's and up until about 1940. He would drive down to Cromwell, Conn., on occasional weekends and stay in the area. One of the most convenient times to look around the place in those days was on Saturday afternoons. The writer, in time, became very friendly with the Superintendent, Mr. Russell Frisbie, who was most kind in eventually permitting him to just about have the run of the place. Mr. Frisbie had his own set of keys for all the buildings and rooms for the entire Stevens set-up and he would give these to the writer and tell him to go ahead and enjoy himself.

The Stevens layout was located in most attractive surroundings just on the outskirts of Cromwell. A pond was beside several of the buildings and, as we understood it, was loaded with fish. Never got to try the fishing, however, as always too interested in learning all that could be learned about banks and toys. There were several particularly interesting rooms in the buildings and one of considerable interest that was always kept locked was called the pattern maker's room. In this room underneath a large work counter were many mechanical bank parts and toy pistol parts, all carved in wood. The workmanship on these wood pattern parts was extremely well done and the writer spent considerable time going over all the different parts and studying them, and in some cases complete banks and pistols were found. In other sections of the same building containing the pattern room there were barrels and barrels of cast iron mechanical bank parts which had been setting around for years. There were parts for the Jolly Nigger, 'Spise A Mule, Artillery Bank, and numbers of others.

The foundry was a separate brick building in itself and the writer was fortunate in being able to talk to some of the old timers there who had worked on banks such as the Girl Skipping Rope. This, according to one old foundryman in particular, was the most difficult item they ever produced since it was almost impossible to get perfect castings of this bank as it was so ornate. The molten iron

would not flow into the mold completely.

Another building, adjacent to the foundry, was used for painting the banks, and this was all handwork. During the time they were actively manufacturing mechanical banks women were generally employed for the purpose of painting the banks. One would specialize in eyes and eyebrows, for example, another in clothing, and so on, and it was more or less done on an assembly line basis, each bank going down the line and paint applied to certain parts by each individual. The fact that women did most of the painting is one reason that the Stevens banks have such a nice appearance about them, good facial definition, and, generally speaking, a better type of paint job.

Another one of the old buildings contained stacks and stacks of original bronze and brass patterns of many mechanical banks, and the writer spent endless hours studying these. Another building adjacent to this had a number of samples of different toy pistols and other things they had made, as well as some experimental parts and pieces of various banks, including some which were probably never produced.

In the main office building there was a large safe and on top of this safe sat an original Patronize The Blind Man And His Dog. This was one of the banks that had been found tucked away up on a rafter in the building where the painting was done. There was a mistake in the painting and the woman who had done this had apparently just hidden it away. In any event, Mr. Frisbie kept this bank setting on top of the safe as a memento of the days when they were so active in the field of mechanical banks. In a room to the left of the main office there were quantities of old literature and papers stacked up from long years past and the writer spent considerable time here also going through these papers and learning much interesting information as to the background of the Stevens Company and their activities in mechanical banks.

The writer mentioned it was fortunate he was able to spend time at the Stevens Company prior to 1940. In the first place not too many people had been through the place to any great extent previous to this time and then, of course, World War II came along and, as the writer was given to understand, many patterns and various other things that had been lying around for years were melted up, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of. Fortunately there were paper materials that were securely packed away and more or less hidden which survived the war period, and some of this came to light after 1950. The writer had been out of touch with the Stevens Company for something over 15 years and on a trip there in the middle 50's he learned that some rather interesting material which had survived had unfortunately gotten scattered around a bit. In any event, the place had changed considerably from the period of the writer's activity prior to 1940 and it is of great benefit to have this early actual background experience with the company when it was more or less the same as in their active days of producing banks.

One speaks of writing a book on mechanical banks and it's a little difficult to know where to begin when, as a matter of fact, there is more than enough interesting information on the Stevens Company and their activities to almost fill a book. There did not seem to be too much material available prior to 1890 but some did turn up and the writer has slowly but surely gotten together material prior to this date and has built up a collection of Stevens Catalogs which starts with one of their earliest known catalogs of 1859 to one dated 1926.

Well so much for Stevens for now and at some future date we will pass along more information concerning the company, possibly in book form. There is much to be said about the Stevens Company and their importance in the mechanical bank era.

Bucking Mule

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1963

A concern that manufactured a rather extensive line of mechanical banks has not received much recognition to date in the monthly series articles. This manufacturer is the H.L. Judd Company of Wallingford, Conn., and there is a very definite reason we have not heard much about them. While they made many mechanical banks, the Judd Company line consisted for the most part of those which were rather small, simple in action and movement, and were generally not of the type that would enter the picture in the classification articles until this time.

Above and beyond this, there is another factor that has to do with some of the Judd banks. Due to the fact that for the most part they were simple in their make-up, they lent themselves to being a somewhat easy target for being recast. This was done some 20 to 25 years ago by an individual in New Jersey. This person saw fit to recast a number of the Judd banks, such as the Gem, Boy And Bull Dog, and the Bucking Mule, among others. This is one of those unfortunate circumstances. However, the banks he reproduced are still recognized as such today by their pebbly surface, inferior castings and finish. The fact that these recasts were sold in some quantities years ago left the impression at the time that original Judd banks were not particularly rare, and as a matter of fact rather common. This impression, in some cases, has continued on until the present time. Actually most of the Judd banks are rather difficult to find as original specimens. The most popular of their banks were the Gem and Dog On Turntable, and these two banks were made over a period of years and widely sold. Thus today either one of these is not too difficult to find in an original specimen. This is not the case, however, with some of the other Judd banks, and in particular the Bucking Mule, one of their best little mechanicals. It is a small, very attractive bank with simple but clever action, and is our choice as No. 111 in the numerical classification.

The bank shown is a fine original in excellent condition and was obtained by the writer a few years ago when the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby was sold. Just where Dr. Corby obtained the bank is unknown to the writer, but like a number of the banks that were in his collection, it is in an unusually good state of preservation with some paint wear and chipping on the figure of the colored boy astride the mule.

Another feature of Judd banks generally is the fine detailed casting and ornate design work that went into their make-up. This is well borne out by the Bucking Mule, and certain features of the base detail can be seen in the pictured specimen. A handsome spiral column is at each of the four corners and a four-leaf clover type design is in each end plate of the base. The two side plates are made with symmetrically designed open work. The top of the rectangular base has attractive lined detail and ornamentation inscribed thereon.

As previously mentioned, most of the Judd banks were quite small and the Bucking Mule is typical of this fact since it is only somewhat over 4 inches long. Also it is well to point out that in keeping with their small size most of the Judd banks were made to employ use of pennies, nickels and dimes. No larger coins can be used in the Bucking Mule, as is the case with most of their other mechanicals. Judd did make at least one large size mechanical bank, and this is known as the Mosque Bank. It is a rather sizeable ornate building, and again in keeping with this size, the larger type coins can be used in its operation.

The Bucking Mule is painted rather simply as are all the banks made by Judd. The entire base and mule are done in a japanned type finish in black. The Negro astride the mule has red trousers and a yellow shirt, and that's it.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the provided slot in front of the mule as shown in the picture. It is held in place there by means of a spring arrangement inside the bank. The mule is then pulled back into position where it snaps into place for operation. When the tail of the mule is given a slight lift he shoots forward as though bucking and stops suddenly at the proper point. This causes the figure of the Negro to be thrown forward and over the mule, and in so doing his head hits the coin and knocks it into the base receptacle. The Negro's feet are fastened or pinned to the mule in such a fashion that he pivots on and off the mule's back. After the coin has been deposited in the bank the figure is moved manually onto the mule's back and can again be reset from there for further action.

The Bucking Mule has no dates or patent information on it whatsoever and apparently the Judd Company did not patent their banks, with possibly an exception or two. One is the Gem, which merely has the inscription 'Patd.' on one side of the top roof decoration. So it is rather difficult to place any one of their banks in a more or less exact period. An old Judd catalog is helpful, however, in placing the Bucking Mule, along with a number of their other mechanicals, in the period of the 1880's. Most likely, to pin it down a little closer, the Bucking Mule was first made in the 1884 to 1888 period.

In closing it is well to stress that the Judd line of mechanical banks consisted of some nice desirable little items, and one of their best is the Bucking Mule. None of their banks were spectacular or highly colorful, but they do have an individual appearance that sets them apart from other banks in a more or less distinctive fashion. They are well made and detailed, and in most cases hard to find in original specimens.

Monkey and Coconut Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1963

A very attractive, rather realistic representation of a monkey is our choice as No. 112 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank, the Monkey & Coconut, is an outstanding example of good designing and is exceptionally well made. It is one of the writer's favorites and, in addition to the factors mentioned, it also has well timed excellent action completely appropriate to the figure involved. Apparently James H. Bowen, the designer and patentee of the bank, had a real knack for clever mechanism with split second timing. Several of his banks bear this out, in particular the Darktown Battery. This bank, which depicts three baseball players — pitcher, batter and catcher — is about the greatest action bank ever made. The pitcher throws the coin so fast that one has difficulty seeing it on its way to the catcher and the timing of the movement of all three figures is outstanding. Another Bowen bank, which is a fine example of this coordinated timing action, is the Bull Dog Bank. Here the coin is flipped from the dog's nose into his mouth and this method of depositing the coin is most unusual and clever. Then too Bowen designed and patented one of the most important of all the mechanical banks, the Girl Skipping Rope (HOBBIES, April, 1952). This is another great action bank and, of course, has the additional feature of continuous movement for a period of time.

In addition to the banks mentioned, Bowen held patents on the Creedmore, Cat & Mouse, Frog Bank, I Always Did 'Spise A Mule, Owl, and Calamity Bank (HOBBIES, November, 1958). He also patented a Bird Bank in 1881, but apparently this was never made or put into any state of production. Bowen's first mechanical bank would seem to be in 1877, the Creedmore, and his last, judging from patent papers, was in 1905, the Calamity. A situation, somewhat unusual, existed

where Bowen was concerned. He designed and patented his different banks but it would seem that he had nothing to do with actually making any of the master patterns or pattern parts for any of his banks. He let this work out to a specialist pattern maker by the name of John Page. (Please see HOBBIES, December, 1953, The Toy Bank Maker, for details on Page. It is interesting to note that Page, in describing his activities at the time was working on the pattern for the Monkey & Coconut.) Since full details are covered in this 1953 article, it is not necessary to go over all the information again at this point. Pertinent at this time is the fact that Bowen apparently did none of his own pattern work. Both Bowen and Page were residents of Philadelphia, Pa.

The Monkey & Coconut was patented March 2, 1886 and the bank as actually produced closely follows the three diagrams contained in the patent papers. The bank was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., as were all of Bowen's known mechanical banks. He must have had a working arrangement with Stevens whereby he sent his patterns and so on to them. He was not apparently ever actually employed by Stevens.

The bank shown has been in the writer's collection for some years now. It is completely original and in unusually fine condition. The paint work is very realistic and most attractive. Colors are as follows: The body of the monkey is done in shading of brown, his face is a medium tan with gray worked in around the eyes, nose and the wrinkles of his forehead. Shadings of red appear on the ears and the hair hanging from his jowls is dark brown. He has red lips and his eyes are an orange brown. The coconut held in his lap is a very dark brown, and the foliage upon which he sits is green. Red edging around the base completes the coloring of the bank. Of special interest is the fact that the plate in the base of the bank is very decoratively done in an attractive design. Bowen employed this same type of decorative base plate in his Darktown Battery Bank.

To operate the Monkey & Coconut, a coin is first inserted in the fingers of the right hand as shown in the picture. Then the lever located on the back of the bank is depressed. In so doing the following action takes place. The left forearm of the monkey turns clockwise raising the top half of the coconut to a vertical position. The coin is released by the thumb of the right hand and falls into the bottom half of the open coconut and on into the base. The monkey opens his mouth and rolls his eyes downward as though watching the action. Upon releasing the operating lever all moving parts automatically return to their normal position as shown in the picture.

In conclusion it bears mention that James Bowen and his banks were an important factor in the era of mechanical banks. Those he designed form an exceptionally interesting group and while, of course, he does not reach the stature of Charles Bailey, he most certainly deserves due recognition for his fine banks.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1963

The writer, on various occasions, has pointed out that misinformation on mechanical banks is considerably more misleading than no information at all. Specifically, at this time, there appeared in a publication an article on a particular pattern bank. The article started out, in so many words, with the broad, completely erroneous statement that only a few of the mechanical banks could be as completely documented as this certain bank. This is a complete misstatement of fact as actually the majority of the known different mechanical banks can be completely documented and thoroughly authenticated. There was other misinformation in this article but there is no need to go into all points at this time. Sufficient to point out that the bank covered in the article under discussion is not

an authentic factory produced item. It is a pattern of a mechanical bank that was never produced commercially. In this pattern form it qualifies as such, along with some other existing patterns of mechanical banks that never reached any actual production stage.

If one wonders why the writer makes a point of a circumstance of this nature, the reason is simple and important. The line must be drawn somewhere. Certainly it cannot be condoned that a person would take a pattern of a bank, cast specimens from this, and then pass them off as collector's items. This has occurred in the past and can happen again, but it doesn't change anything insofar as the fact that the banks so produced are not authentic mechanical banks.

Original patterns of mechanical banks that exist today have a value and interest, and certainly it is anyone's privilege to respect them for what they are. But to pass them off as commercially produced items or anything else other than what they are is misleading and altering the facts. Any mechanical bank cast from a pattern bank that is positively known to have never been used for commercial production is simply a spurious item.

— O —

Now to patent papers for a moment. There are individuals who think that patents are the positive end proof of a given or certain mechanical bank. This is not so. Patent papers are very important, informative, and substantiate many of the banks. They are most helpful in establishing definite dates, patentees, designers, and so on. But they do not establish the fact that any certain bank was manufactured or ever reached any stage of production. Numbers of patents were taken out on mechanical banks that never got beyond this stage. In other cases the banks as produced are totally different than the patents covering them. Usually in these cases a certain principle in the design, operation, mechanism, and so on is adhered to so that the patent applies. Now please note that the writer is in no way diminishing the importance of patent papers as is obvious to those who have read his articles. They are very helpful, but not necessarily the final word or proof on all mechanical banks. Some of the greatest, most desirable, and completely authentic mechanical banks have no patent papers at all.

— O —

Since some general confusion exists on the subject matter of a letter recently received by the writer, we would like to quote this friend's letter in its entirety:

"I have just finished your article in the February HOBBIES on banks designed and made by Charles A. Bailey.

"I thought that you might be interested in knowing of an iron still bank in the shape of the Liberty Bell on a wood base and marked "Centennial Money Bank 1876 Pat. Apr. 75". On the bottom of the wood base is a paper label barely legible reading 'Bailey's Centennial Money Bank' and also showing the patent date of April, 1875. It gives the history of the Liberty Bell and says that the replica may be used as a bank and a paperweight.

"The April, 1875, patent date is four years earlier than the pocket watch bank described in your article as being Bailey's first known effort in the field of banks.

"I thought that you might like to have this information."

Well, our friend is correct up to a point, and he would have no way of knowing beyond this point without some degree of research. True, Bailey did patent a Liberty Bell Bank, but it was not Charles A. Bailey. Thomas A. Bailey of Philadelphia, Pa., was the patentee of the Centennial Money Bank. This was under Design Patent No. 8,257 dated April 6, 1875. While Charles Bailey had nothing to do with the Liberty Bell, he did, however, on June 22 of the same year, 1875, patent

a bell ringing toy ball with one or more bells permanently suspended therein. These bells were substantially the same as the sleigh type on leather straps, typical of the period.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1963

To continue on from last month's Ramblings, we have a couple of additional interesting factors concerning Charles A. Bailey, as well as several other points of interest.

Recently, the writer obtained an exceptionally well made toy cannon from Lloyd Ralston of Warren, Ohio. Lloyd is dealing in cast iron toys and mechanical banks, as well as retaining some of these items for his own collection. The cannon has unusual detail on each side of the carriage. On one side is a well designed large eagle and on the other there is a pyramid of cannon balls and a powder keg. This type of ornamentation is somewhat unique on a toy cannon, and the entire cast iron carriage is quite graceful and attractive. On the trail appears the date August 28, 1894. The two cast iron wheels are well made and the cannon barrel is brass with a star on top where the barrel pivots in the frame. The barrel, from the front, can be swung on down and back between the wheels, which is also unusual. All told the cannon intrigued the writer, and other than the feeling that it was made by J. & E. Stevens he had to find out all about it. Subsequent research into the matter revealed that Charles A. Bailey designed and patented the cannon. As a matter of fact he took out two patents on toy cannon under the date of August 28, 1894, both of which were assigned to the J. & E. Stevens Company. So along with the many fine mechanical banks designed and patented by Bailey, we can now add toy cannon. There is considerable interesting detail and information in the patent papers concerning these two Bailey designed cannon, however, we will not attempt to cover it here at this time.

Now please refer to the article on the Perfection Registering Bank, HOBBIES, September, 1959. At the time the writer attributed this bank to Charles A. Bailey and the J. & E. Stevens Company. The bank, as pointed out in the 1959 article, merely has the terminology "Patent Applied For" thereon. This affords practically no help at all insofar as locating the patent papers as after all when a patent was applied for, it would not necessarily indicate that a patent was granted, only the possibility of such would be indicated. The writer is pleased to say that he has found the patent papers covering the Perfection Registering Bank. It was designed and patented by Charles A. Bailey, January 10, 1893, and assigned by Bailey to the J. & E. Stevens Company. There are four full sheets to this patent, two of the sheets consist of eight drawings of the bank and various parts; the other two sheets are filled with complete details as to all parts and their operation. As pointed out in the papers, one main feature was to provide a bank with mechanism that would not easily get out of order. Of interest is the fact that in the patent diagrams of the bank the wording "Put In The Dimes" appears in place of the name Perfection Registering Bank. This was apparently Bailey's original idea, however, when put into production it must have been decided that it would be well to point out the trouble free mechanism by using the chosen name. Other than this wording angle the bank as produced by Stevens is practically identical to the patent diagrams and descriptions.

Another point of detail is brought out by a recent letter and quoted from in part:

"Enclosed please find \$2 for one of your mechanical bank booklets.

"Mr. Griffith I hope you can give me a little information on a mechanical bank I have.

"Every article I have seen on this bank spells it 'Creedmore.' I have one of these banks and it is marked 'Creedmoor,' Bank, November 6, 1877. I got this bank from a friend who had it given to

him about 40 years ago by a rich lady for whom his aunt worked.

"I would appreciate hearing from you."

Well, our friend is correct, and the spelling should be "Creedmoor," with the double "o" just as it appears on the bank. Along with everyone else apparently, the writer has somewhat carelessly misspelled the name in general usage and the lady whose letter we have quoted is in for a mild surprise as the writer has also misspelled the name in his booklet.

Last but not least, at this time we would like to clarify the facts as to the earliest known dated mechanical bank. The Hall's Excelsior of 1869 has, for some time, been accepted as the bank to occupy this position. This is true up to a point but being very technical if we use just the terminology "mechanical bank" in the broad coverage, then it is not correct. Please refer to the March, 1963, article on the J. & E. Stevens Company where the writer refers to the first known dated cast iron mechanical bank as being the Hall's Excelsior. This is true when referring to a cast iron bank and the date of the patent is December 21, 1869. However, on February 16 of the same year, 1869, James Serrill of Philadelphia, Pa., was issued a patent on what he termed "The Magic Savings Bank." This consisted of a wooden bureau having a movable drawer with a false bottom. Coins put into the drawer disappeared when the drawer was closed. This bank was produced commercially and the date and Serrill's name were stenciled on the inside bottom of the drawer. Actually then, this bank is the earliest known dated mechanical bank. While in the same year as Hall's Excelsior, it precedes the Excelsior by some ten months. As to the actual time or date that the first mechanical bank was made may never be known. Hall's bank could have been produced before Serrill's, but this would have nothing to do with changing the factors surrounding the dates on the banks themselves.

Weeden's Plantation Saving Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1963

A tin mechanical bank with a windup mechanism that furnishes sustained action to the figures involved is our choice as No. 113 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. This bank has been called the Weeden's Plantation Darky Savings Bank, but is more commonly known as Weeden's Plantation and occasionally is referred to as the Plantation Bank. It has a rather interesting background since it is one of the few mechanical banks known to have been given as a premium item. The bank was sold commercially through regular channels, however, in addition to this the Youth's Companion offered the Weeden's Plantation as a free premium item to those who sold subscriptions to their magazine. Of further interest is the fact that when originally put on the market it was produced for a period of years and then discontinued for a number of years, only to be revived again and manufactured once more for a period of time.

The Weeden Manufacturing Company of New Bedford, Mass., manufactured the Plantation Bank as well as several very interesting and similar companion banks. Their banks have in common the rectangular box shape in tin with a windup mechanism that provided a certain timed action for each coin inserted, The Weeden's Plantation has a somewhat different appearance than the others since the roof slants to the rear and it is intended to look like an old shed or shack.

One of Weeden's banks is very rare, and this is the Ding Dong Bell (HOBBIES, October, 1954). Of possible greater rarity and desirability is the Japanese Ball Tossor (HOBBIES, July, 1961). This bank under existing circumstances cannot be classed in any area since, to the best of the writer's knowledge, no specimen has ever been found to date. In addition to the information on this bank in

the July, 1961, article, the writer has an original wooden box for the Ding Dong Bell Bank and the paper label on this box lists the Japanese Ball Tosser along with the Plantation and Ding Dong Bell. So it certainly must have necessarily been manufactured and it follows logically that somewhere there should be an example or two of this bank in existence today. Transversely, the bank may have been manufactured in a very limited quantity, only a certain number sold, and, therefore, it is possible that there are no surviving specimens.

The Weeden's Plantation has the following patent information printed on a paper label on the back: "Five U.S. Patents Aug. 7, 1888." Usually it is not too difficult to locate patent papers when the month, day, and year are known. When necessary one can go through all patents of the particular day involved. Now and then, however, this does not work, and in the case of the Plantation Bank the writer has had no success so far in locating any papers whatsoever, let alone five patents as stated on the original label. Further research may bring the papers to light. In any event, the bank was very definitely made in the late 1880's and through the 1890's since it was offered by the Youth's Companion in that period. As mentioned, the manufacture of the bank was discontinued for some years and then around 1918 or so it was once more put on the market. The same dies and so on were used and the banks made in this period were identical to the earlier models.

The bank shown is from the ever increasing collection of Leon Perelman of Merion, Pa. Lee, by the way, has set up a very fine addition to his home just to house his mechanical banks, toys, and other of his interests. It is a very attractive setup and the writer was pleased to have the opportunity of looking it over recently.

The paint on the bank shown is in reasonably good condition and the figure of the Jigging Negro is original. This figure simply hangs on the operating lever and more often than not is missing. The shed is painted white with the roof and bottom section in red. Gold outlining is used, and on one side of the shed there appears the following wording in gold: "Jig Dancin' "; on the other side also in gold "Pete Jonson" - "Banjo Lessuns" - "One Cent." The figure of the dancer has a white hat, red shirt, blue trousers and brown shoes. The figure of the banjo player is painted the same and he holds a brown and white banjo. He is sitting on a brown bale of cotton. The base, back and other parts of the inside structure of the bank are wood. A paper label covers the back section above a locking coin door. This door has the terminology "Coin Safe" thereon. Instructions to operate the bank and how to unlock it appear on the paper label along with the name and date. The key to the coin safe is also held in place on the paper label section. The operating instructions state that a penny or nickel be used.

To operate the bank it is first wound by turning the winding key counter-clockwise as indicated by an arrow. Then a penny is inserted in the coin slot on the lower side of the shed. The dancer starts to jig and the banjo player's right arm moves as though playing the instrument. This action continues for a certain length of time and then stops automatically. It is necessary to insert another coin for more action. This continues on in this fashion until the mechanism runs down and then, of course, it is necessary to rewind. It is a very nice action bank and the dancer really steps it out.

In closing a word about the Weeden Manufacturing Company is in order. A friend of the writer's Mrs. Sara Lowe of New Bedford, Mass., has kindly furnished the following information and we quote:

"The following is taken from page 475 of 'History of New Bedford and its Vicinity' (1602-1892) by Leonard B. Ellis, 1892, D. Mason & Co., Publishers, Syracuse, N.Y.:

"The Weeden Manufacturing Company – The company occupies the two story brick building Nos. 112 and 114 North Water Street. The business was founded in 1883 by the late William N.

Weeden of New Bedford. In 1884 Mr. Weeden invented a toy engine under an arrangement with Perry Mason & Company, publishers of the Youth's Companion, and later this scientific toy was patented, and has been largely manufactured since. Movable toys are also manufactured, as well as other novelties in metal. A stock company was formed in July, 1887, with a capital stock of \$50,000, and the business has steadily increased. The company employs seventy-five workmen with a weekly payroll of \$500. The present officers are as follows: President, J. Arthur Beauvais; Treasurer, Charles E. Barney; Directors, J. Arthur Beauvais, Charles E. Barney, George S. Homer, and Edward S. Brown."

It bears mention that Weeden Manufacturing is responsible for one of the finest and most desirable toys ever produced. This is the Weeden's Live Steam Fire Engine, and Mrs. Lowe was directly responsible in helping the writer obtain the original display model that the Weeden Company had on exhibit for many years. Needless to say, it is all in perfect original condition.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1963

Referring to last month's article on the Weeden's Plantation Savings Bank, it was pointed out that the paper label on the back showed five patents under the date of August 7, 1888. The writer stated that he had been unsuccessful in locating the patent papers and, of course, five patents on one mechanical bank is unique. The situation offered somewhat of a challenge to the writer knowing that five patents must exist or the information on the bank itself was completely wrong. Well, after going into the matter further, the copies of the patent papers are now in the writer's possession. It's no wonder they were difficult to locate since each of the five patents have to do with watches and clocks. They are all under the date of August 7, 1888 and taken out by William N. Weeden of New Bedford, Mass., assignor to the Weeden Manufacturing Company of the same place. The patents are as follows:

387,469 Arbor for clocks, watches, etc.

387,470 Means for making pinions for clocks and watches

387,471 Pinions for clocks, watches, etc.

387,472 Method of making pinions for clocks and watches

387,548 Method of making arbors for clocks and watches

So here's a case where the patent papers on a mechanical bank are in a completely different group and class than those covering toy money boxes, or for that matter anything remotely connected with a mechanical bank. The five patents, of course, actually cover part of the clock-like mechanism of the Plantation Bank, and not the bank itself.

Now please refer to HOBBIES for August 1962, and the article on the Bank of Education & Economy. Here you will note that complete information is given on the bank itself as to the date, April 30, 1895, and the manufacturer, Proctor Raymond Company, Buffalo, N.Y. There is no question about this, however, the actual patent papers had eluded the writer, but he knew they must exist. To make a long story short, an original copy of the patent is now in the writer's possession. Here again this patent was far and away from the group and class of toy savings banks. It is dated, as stated on the bank, April 30, 1895, and the patentee was James S. Barcus of Chicago, Ill. The patent was issued to cover a "Coin Controlled Apparatus for Advertising and Educational Systems." The patent consists of five sheets, three of which contain eight diagrams of the apparatus that, when actually produced, resulted in a toy savings device, the Bank of Education & Economy.

While we are on the subject of patent papers there are two other mechanical banks previously covered by classification articles whose papers seemed continually to elude the writer. These papers have been found recently by the writer and this situation can now be clarified.

The patent on the Sportsman Bank (HOBBIES, June, 1952) was issued June 14, 1892 to Edwin I. Pyle of Bridgeport, Conn. As stated in the papers the patent covers a "Mechanical Toy," not a money box or toy savings device. This toy patent was simply converted into a mechanical bank when produced by the J. & E. Stevens Company. While the patent did not cover a savings device as such, it did cover the mechanism, working parts and figures of the hunter and bird. As a matter of fact the Sportsman Bank as produced by Stevens closely follows the original diagrams in the patent papers as to the figures of the hunter, bird, and so on.

The papers covering the English made Football Bank (HOBBIES, December, 1956) were issued as a design register. This department, the Register of Designs, is in the Patent Office in London, England. The registration number 247,326 was assigned to the Football Bank and registered January 7, 1895 by John Harper & Company, Ltd., the manufacturers of the bank. The negative photostat copy of the representation of the bank as supplied to the writer by the Patent Office is identical to the bank as produced by Harper.

An interesting little bank has recently come into the possession of the writer through the good help of Arnold Johnson of the 1738 House, Petersham, Mass. Since the bank represents a watch we will call it the Watch Bank. It was purchased by Mr. Johnson at a small antique show in the area.

The Watch Bank is made of sheet iron and the finish is nickel plate. It is a stamping, very nicely done with attractive decoration and wording. The hands on the face of the watch are set at 8 minutes past 10. Between the hands appears the wording "Chase Poverty." Under the hands is inscribed "Check Waste Create Thrift." Below this in a circle where the second hand would normally be appears "Copyright Patent Apd." In a diamond shaped section in the middle of this circle appears "C. L. Russell, N.Y." In the center of the back of the watch there is inscribed an inverted horseshoe. Around this is the following wording "Holds 25 Dimes" – "Just Fill It" – "It Will Open" – "Then Re-Lock."

The bank as far as the way it was made, material and finish, is similar to the Pistol Bank, which was also made in cast iron at an earlier date. (HOBBIES article on Pistol Bank, December, 1961). The operation of the Watch Bank is the same principle as the Safety Locomotive (HOBBIES, September, 1960). This places it as a borderline bank in the mechanical to semi-mechanical area. It is not a registering bank as there is no registering mechanism.

Naturally the writer wanted to find out all he could about the Watch Bank as to the date of manufacture and so on. In his opinion, judging from the bank itself, he placed it in the 1920's.

His initial approach was to operate the bank and this turned out to be a stroke of luck. The coins are inserted in a provided slot by the top wind stem ring. Sure enough after 25 dimes the bank opened automatically, and inside the bank was the original paper label! This reads as Follows:

How to Relock This Bank

Place the lip, on the bottom of this case, in the slot, in the other case, under the figure 5; bring the two cases together so that the rings over the figure 12 meet; press, and the bank is locked again.

Charles Lee Russell,

199 Cook St.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Now to finding out about the bank. The writer first sent a letter to Mr. Russell at the address shown. This was returned as unknown. Meantime he sent a letter to the Brooklyn Public Library. The next step was to check all patentees by the name of Russell. This the writer did, including all

patents and design patents from 1886 to 1945. No luck—no Charles Lee Russell with a bank patent.

The Brooklyn Public Library, and in particular the Business Library, came through with flying colors. They maintain back files of the Brooklyn Telephone Book in microfilm. This disclosed the following: in a 1920-21 Book a listing for Russell, C.L., metal nvlts, 199 Cook Street. The book for 1923 has this listing, Russell, Chas. L., Mfr. savings banks, 199 Cook. Continued checking indicates the same listing through 1925. The 1926 book and on no longer lists Mr. Russell.

So there is no question but that the Watch Bank was made during the 1920 to 1925 period and that most likely 1925 was the end of it.

It is a nice little bank, and unlike Charles Bailey's earlier watch type still bank, this one has nice mechanism inside with springs and so on, and is definitely in the mechanical category.

Elephant & Three Clowns on Tub

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1963

A mechanical bank which has the unusual distinction of being covered by the same patent papers as those of two other banks is our choice as No. 114 in the numerical classification. This fine little mechanical bank with its circus theme background is the Elephant And Three Clowns On Tub. It has very clever action and actually the proportion and designing of this bank ranks it as one of the best from these standpoints. As has been mentioned by the writer in certain previous articles, the mechanical banks in the circus group have a definite appeal, and this continues to increase as time goes on. It is not necessary to again list all those that represent this subject matter and sufficient at this time is the fact that the bank under present discussion is one of the most interesting and desirable in the circus group.

The Elephant And Three Clowns has the following patent information inscribed on the base plate: "Eng. Pat. July 28, 1882 — U.S. Pat. Aug. 8, 1882." This is somewhat unusual as a very limited number of the mechanical banks were patented in both the United States and England. Even more unusual is the fact that three of these mechanical banks, including the one under discussion, are all protected by the same patent papers. James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., was the inventor responsible for this unique situation. The patent papers in this instance were issued to him on the basis of a "Toy Savings Bank" and the accompanying drawings are those of the Frog Bank. In the printed detailed text of the papers, however, is where four methods of operation, based on a basic principle, are outlined and thoroughly described. This is the basis on which at least three entirely dissimilar appearing mechanical banks are covered by the same patent papers. The third bank is the Reclining Chinaman (HOBBIES, December, 1959). Thus, the Elephant And Three Clowns, Frog Bank, and Reclining Chinaman all share certain similarities in their operating mechanism which is covered by the same patent papers. As further explanation, a short quote from the rather lengthy papers is in order: "The savings bank herein described may be made in the image of living beings of any kind and character or of any other desired shape." Mr. Bowen also specified that use could be made of a "representation of a leg or other limb or part of a living being." This point is well carried through by all three banks made under the patent. They were manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn.

Leon Perelman is the owner of the bank shown and he obtained it through the good help of George Bauer of Pottstown, Pa. Colors are as follows: The Elephant is gray, white tusks and eyes, mouth and tip of trunk in red, and the blanket over his back is blue with yellow fringe and tassels. The tub is tan trimmed in gold, with a red top. The two clowns, one holding the gold rings and the

other balancing the gold ball on his feet, are painted alike with blue costumes and red belts and flesh color arms, legs and faces. The front clown has a handlebar type mustache. The clown astride the elephant has a red costume with a large star on his chest. His peaked hat is red with a blue rim, shoes are black, and arms, legs and face are flesh toned, the same as the other two clowns.

To operate the bank a coin is placed between the two rings held by the clown standing beneath the elephant's trunk. The ball balanced on the feet of the clown on the steps is then pulled backward. The legs of this clown actually operate as a lever and cause the elephant's trunk to swing to the side, thus knocking the coin between the legs of the elephant and on into the coin slot in the top of the tub. At the same time the clown riding the elephant turns at the waist to face the same direction as the other two clowns. Upon releasing the ball all moving parts automatically return to the positions shown in the picture.

In conclusion a point of some interest is in order. Some years ago the writer had occasion to visit the late Norman E. Sherwood, who was a pioneer dealer in mechanical banks. At the time Mr. Sherwood showed him an original pattern of the Elephant And Three Clowns made in bronze. In examining this pattern the writer noted that the clowns faced in the opposite direction than those of the production bank. In other words, in looking at the photograph herewith the back of the heads would show if the bank had been made from this pattern. It was apparently never used to make production banks since the writer has never seen any with the heads facing in this direction. It is the writer's opinion that the bank was produced as shown so that it could be properly operated with the right hand.

Zoo Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1963

Alphabetically speaking, our choice of the 115th mechanical bank in the numerical classification is most certainly last, but assuredly not least. This is the Zoo Bank, and to the best of the writer's knowledge, the only mechanical bank having a name beginning with the letter Z. As a matter of fact, until the first part of the year, only two letters in the alphabet, Q and X, were not represented by names in mechanical banks. Now only X remains since a Queen Victoria Bank turned up some months ago. This is a bust type bank made in England. When a coin is deposited in the crown atop her head the eyes blink. The bank was made in celebration of the Jubilee of 1887, the 50th reigning year of Queen Victoria. As to the letter X, there are some who may feel this is represented by the X-Ray Bank, and this could be accepted in this fashion, except for the fact that the full proper name appears on the bank itself as "The Smyth X-Ray Bank" (HOBBIES, April, 1961).

The Zoo Bank is one of the so called "little" mechanical banks, and some others in this category are the Afghanistan Bank, Girl In Victorian Chair, and Elephant And Three Clowns On Tub. The Zoo, like the Elephant And Three Clowns, is very nicely proportioned for so small a bank. Also it has excellent action considering its size which is 4¼" both in height and width, and 1½" in depth. Further, while other mechanical banks utilize various animals in their action, this bank has the distinction of being the only one to actually represent a Zoo house.

No dates or patent information appear on the Zoo Bank, nor does the writer have in his possession any old catalogs or other material that picture or describe the bank. So far the writer has also been unable to locate any patent papers that would possibly apply to the action or mechanism involved. Using the bank itself as a guidepost we can fairly accurately narrow the possible manufacturers down to two concerns. Wording appears inscribed on the back of the bank as

follows: "Zoo Bank." Under this, "Press the Monkey," and below this the number "134." The same method of wording was used on the Uncle Remus Bank in the same fashion, along with the number "136." Using this along with other characteristics of the Zoo bank we can reasonably assume that either Kyser & Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., or the Mechanical Novelty Works of New Britain, Conn., made the bank.

Leon Perelman of Merion, Pa. is the collector who owns the pictured bank. It is a nice original specimen with good paint and the colors are as follows: The house and cupola are red and each has a gray roof highlighted with gold. The shutter-type door and the shutters on the two windows are green with gold outlining and striping. The bench and bucket in front of the house are done in gold as is the pulley-lift arrangement left top of the door. The small patch of ground around the base of the house is done in green with yellow and red highlighting. The face of the monkey which appears in the cupola is black and bronze, with small white eyes and black pupils. The face of the bear in the left window is black and silver with a red mouth and same type eyes as the monkey. The lion in the right window is tan with brown, a red mouth and black eyes.

The bank as pictured is shown after the action has taken place. To prepare the bank for operation, using the picture as a guide, one must first manually close each of the two shutters on the windows. This causes the faces of the bear and lion to recede into the bank. At the same time the face of the monkey moves forward into the window of the cupola. The shutters, due to a spring arrangement inside, snap into place and stay closed. To operate the bank a coin is placed in the provided slot in the roof of the cupola. This rests at a given point partly exposed, it does not fall into the bank. The face of the monkey is then pressed. This causes the lion and bear to move forward into their positions in the windows and the shutters fly open exposing their faces. At the same time the coin drops into the bank automatically. A small key-lock type coin trap is provided in the base for the removal of accumulated coins.

The Zoo Bank is a very nice little item, particularly difficult to find in complete original condition and in good original working order. It is a bank that is securely held together by means of peened over pins in the casting. Since it could not readily be taken apart apparently children were prone to try to pry it open, pull on the shutters, or try to pry the lion or bear out. The mechanism as compared to many of the more sturdy mechanical banks is rather delicate, small in size, and would tend to get out of order with any degree of rough treatment.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1963

The Ding Dong Bell is one of the rare desirable mechanical banks and it appeared in article form in the October, 1954, issue of HOBBIES. In this article the writer stated that the back of the bank was the same as the Weeden's Plantation Darky Savings Bank (HOBBIES, August, 1963). This is true with respect to the winding key, key to unlock the bank, the locking coin door, and so on. However, there is a difference in the wording of the Ding Dong Bell, and this has some importance and is of interest. This came to the writer's attention at the time of his having some difficulty in locating the five patent papers covering the Plantation Bank.

The Ding Dong Bell has the statement "Five U.S. Patents Allowed" on the back paper label. This, of course, protected the bank under the same patents of August 7, 1888, which covered the Plantation Bank. This statement also means that the Ding Dong Bell was made after this date. Other wording on the back of the bank which is of considerable significance is as follows: "Weeden

Manufacturing Company — New Line of Mechanical Savings Banks — Six Styles." This is one of the few cases where mechanical banks, as we use the terminology today, were originally referred to as mechanical banks. In other words, the animated toy savings devices we have come to generalize as mechanical banks were practically never referred to as such during their period.

The mention of "Six Styles" would certainly indicate that Weeden produced six different mechanical banks, all most likely covered by the same five patents which actually protected the clock-work type mechanism. To the best of the writer's knowledge only two types of Weeden mechanical banks are known to exist, and these are the Plantation and Ding Dong Bell. It is fairly well established that they made a Japanese Ball Tosser (HOBBIES, July, 1961), but to date the writer knows of no example of this bank existing in private collections or otherwise. This then, would leave the possibility that three other different mechanical banks with a clock-work type mechanism were produced, and the further possibility that examples of these may still exist as yet undiscovered by collectors. Rumors for some years have indicated that Weeden made a Grasshopper Bank and a School Teacher Bank. However, the writer does not have, nor has he ever seen, any evidence or proof of any kind that would substantiate either of these banks.

While we are on the subject of the Weeden Manufacturing Company, Mrs. Sara Lowe of New Bedford, Mass., has come up with another interesting sidelight concerning the company. Mrs. Lowe recently obtained a few old, small bottles of 3-In-One Oil. They are attractive triangular shape and green in color. A folder that came with each bottle is imprinted with the name "Weeden Toy Steam Engines", and these small bottles of oil were given as samples by Weeden with their various steam toys.

Of considerable interest is the recent discovery of a companion bank to the 5c Adding Bank. This is the 10c Adding Bank and it is pictured herewith through the courtesy of Leon Perelman in whose collection it now resides. While both are registering banks, the 5c Adding has been considered in the mechanical category for some years now, the same as the Perfection Registering (HOBBIES, September, 1959) and the Registering Dime Savings Bank (Mechanical Clock). The 10c Adding, like the 5c, has the same automatic front opening door and is the same overall size and structure. Of course, it works with dimes rather than nickels, but other than this the two banks are alike, including the mechanisms. Both carry the same patent date of August 20, 1889, which is stenciled on the back of each bank. Details of this new find, as well as the 5c Adding, will appear at the proper time in the regular classification articles. In any event, Mr. Perelman is to be congratulated on turning up what is, to the best of the writer's knowledge, a heretofore unknown mechanical bank.

In closing at this time we can add another name to the list of known mechanical banks. This too, as far as the writer knows is a new discovery. The bank is the Music Bank, and it is an unusual looking affair made of sheet metal. It is a decorative item of good construction and very definitely, in the writer's opinion, a commercially produced piece, most likely of foreign manufacture. It is painted black with extra fine decoration of birds, flowers, and so on, somewhat similar in appearance to Worcester china. A coin dropped in the provided slot in the top of the bank causes the music to play for a given time and then another coin repeats the action and so on. Further details on the bank, who found it, and other information will be given at the proper time in a subsequent article.

A Tribute to Frank Ball

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1964

It was with deep regret the writer learned of the death of Mr. F. L. Ball the morning of October 31, 1963. Frank, as he was known to his many friends and associates, will be sorely missed; he was a real gentleman and it was always a pleasure to be in his company.

Frank was a great asset to the hobby of collecting mechanical banks and cast iron toys and was one of the early pioneers in this field. He increased the dealing phase in these items more actively after his retirement as an executive with a New England utilities firm. He bought and sold over the years from his home and then in a place he fondly referred to as The Loft. In recent years he was associated with F.A.O. Schwarz of New York City. They formed an antique toy department and Mr. Ball's activities were centered around this division of the Schwarz Company.

In past years Frank handled a number of the fine rare mechanical banks and some of the best of the cast iron toys. The writer vividly recalls one trip in particular to Cambridge a few years ago. At the time Frank had available the large size Ives cast iron pull train in complete and fine condition, and a three seated Hubley brake, complete and original with all figures, and several other excellent toys. In addition, of course, there were varieties of other type cast iron toys and a good representative group of mechanical banks. Some of the best pieces collectors have in their respective collections, particularly so in cast iron toys, came to them through the good help of Frank Ball.

Frank was a most conscientious person and he always tried to be fair in his dealings. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and admirers, particularly those who collect mechanical banks and cast iron toys.

An Interesting Discovery

A most interesting and informative experience occurred recently on the occasion of the writer's visit to the Churchill Country Club antique show. Smiths' Antiques of Mt. Union, Pa., brought with them a Fortune Teller Savings Bank that Mrs. Smith had purchased at another show several months prior to this show. The Fortune Teller Savings Bank has been a more or less unknown quantity since the only wording on the bank, other than the name, are the letters "PAT" on the underside bottom of the safe. The Smiths' example of this bank, however, is in complete, fine, original condition including the original paper label which covers the entire back of the large safe. This is something the writer had never seen and the label is of great interest, informative, and most attractive.

The large center section of the label is a decorative picture. Above this appears "Fortune Teller Savings Bank Patented Feb. 19, 1901." Below the picture are the directions as follows:

"Directions – Drop the coin in the slot of the lever." (Here appears the picture of a hand holding a coin over the lever slot.) Then push the lever back hard and quick. This will spin the wheel of fortune. When the wheel stops, pull the lever forward as far as possible and your true fortune will appear at the window every time."

Across the bottom of the label appears, "Mfg'd. by Baumgarten & Co., Baltimore, U.S.A."

The large center picture is a country scene of two women in old fashioned puffed sleeve dresses sitting in chairs out in the open. A barrel is represented as a table between them. On the barrel top sets the Fortune Teller Savings Bank, and one of the women is inserting a coin therein. In the background of the picture there is a tent with a coal stove inside; to the left of this, among some trees, is a prairie schooner type wagon with two unhitched horses.

The entire label is done in bright attractive colors of red, green, blue, brown, yellow and so on. Frankly speaking the label adds measurably to this bank since it is a rather plain nickel plated safe type bank and not particularly attractive in itself. The writer will pass along further information regarding the Fortune Teller Savings Bank at the time of the regular classification article.

Jonah and the Whale Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1964

A mechanical bank with a biblical background is our choice as No. 116 in the numerical classification. This is the Jonah And The Whale, and it is a large, well designed, impressive bank with good action. The name, as shown in the picture, is cast in large letters along both side plates. Since there are two known different types of the Jonah And The Whale, it is well to point out that only one type has the name on the bank itself. The other type Jonah And The Whale is very rare and is No. 20 in the numerical classification (HOBBIES, May, 1953). There has always existed some degree of confusion since both banks have the same theme, and while they look nothing alike appearance-wise, the easiest way to remember to distinguish one from the other is by the large lettered name on the one now under discussion. No name whatsoever appears on the rare type. This plus the fact that in the one pictured Jonah is thrown towards the whale's mouth, and in the case of the rare one he comes out of the whale's mouth. There are many other differences and checking the photo in the May 1953 article with the one herewith will bear all this out. Actually the only confusing similarity between the two banks is in sharing the same subject matter and name.

The Jonah And Whale pictured was patented July 15, 1890 by Peter Adams of Buffalo, N.Y., assignor to Charles G. Shepard and Walter J. Shepard, also of Buffalo. The patent is a design patent and covered a design for a toy savings bank. The diagram or sketch accompanying the text of the patent is practically identical to the actual manufactured item. The manufacturer of the bank was the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo. It bears mention at this point that not many mechanical banks, as such, were covered by a design patent alone. Most of the mechanical banks that were covered by a patent are on the basis of a regular patent which also protected certain features of the operating mechanism.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of Leon Perelman of Merion, Pa. It is in original condition with good paint and the colors are as follows: The side and end plates of the base are red with yellow corners, and the letters of the name are done in gold. The edges of the bottom plate and top part of the bank are striped in yellow and black. The water and waves are realistically done in light bluish-green with white highlighting. The whale is a dark green-black color with a red mouth and white teeth. The boat is an off shade of yellow with stripes of gold, white, blue and red. The robes on the two figures are red and blue and they have white beards, flesh color faces and hands, and so on. All in all the Jonah And Whale is a very bright, attractively painted bank and gives a fine impressive appearance.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the back of the figure of Jonah. The lever, which is recessed in the end plate under the rear of the boat, is then pressed. As the whale opens his mouth wide the figure holding Jonah moves forward in the boat toward the whale. The figure of Jonah tilts downward as though entering the whale's mouth, but instead the coin is thrown from his back into the whale. Releasing the lever returns the figures in the boat to the position shown in the picture. The whale's mouth closes and re-opens as though swallowing the coin. This action of the lower jaw continues for some time since it is balanced in a fashion to do so. Coins are removed by means of a key lock trap in the underside of the base.

In closing, a few words as to the story of Jonah are in order. Jonah was a minor prophet. To escape the Divine summons to preach repentance to Nineveh, Jonah embarked by boat from Joppa for Tarshish, but during a severe storm was, at his advice and by the issue of a lot with the sailors, thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish. The Lord had prepared this fish to swallow up

Jonah. After being thrown overboard and swallowed by the fish, the storm subsided. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. The Lord then spoke unto the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

A further point of interest in closing is the fact that the bank under discussion represents the first part of Jonah's ordeal, that is being cast to the whale. Then the other rare Jonah And Whale represents the end of his three days and nights ordeal by emerging from the whale. They make a fine pair of banks to have in a collection.

Leap-Frog Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1964

The general basic idea or purpose behind most of the mechanical banks was to produce an animated toy with certain mechanism and action that would appeal to children and encourage and stimulate their interest to save pennies and other coins. On this basis alone, excluding the commercial phase at the moment, it is surprising how few of the known different mechanical banks made over the many years of their popularity depict children playing games as such or simply at play. This broad field of subject matter, certainly of interest to children, seems to have been largely left untouched by the various designers and manufacturers of mechanical banks. Just to name a few for example, such play and games as shooting marbles, hide and seek, teeter-totter, croquet, swinging, tag, spinning tops, hopscotch, and many others are not represented. Strangely enough the mechanical banks that were made utilizing only a few specific types of this theme are for the most part rather scarce and hard to find. These include the Girl Skipping Rope (HOBBIES, April, 1952), the Roller Skating Bank (HOBBIES, August, 1952), and the more available bank we have chosen as No. 117 in the numerical classification — the Leap-Frog. There is another rare possibility and this is the Coasting Bank, should an example ever turn up. Two other possible considerations are the Boy On Trapeze (French's Automatic Bank) and the Merry-Go-Round (HOBBIES, December, 1951). Borderline banks like Darktown Battery (Baseball), A Calamity (Football) (HOBBIES, November, 1958), and others of this nature are considered to be more representative of specific sports as such and are thus grouped in this category.

The Leap-Frog Bank is a very fine example of children, boys in this case, at play and best represents this theme, along with the Girl Skipping Rope and Roller Skating. It was patented September 15, 1891 by Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams of Buffalo, N.Y. Adams was the assignor to Walter J. Shepard, also of Buffalo. The patent in this case is a design patent and relates to the configuration of a toy savings bank which represents the game of leap-frog. The diagram or sketch accompanying the text of the design patent is practically identical to the bank as actually produced. It was manufactured by the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo, an outstanding producer of mechanical banks. As a matter of fact, until the Shepard line of banks was taken over by Stevens they possibly ranked on a par with or were second only to Stevens in this specialized field. Remembering, of course, that Stevens started some ten years or more before Shepard in producing mechanical banks, and then after acquiring the Shepard line of banks Stevens continued to manufacture certain of the former Shepard mechanical banks for many years under their own name.

Leon Perelman, a collector who has real interest and pride in his collection of mechanical banks, is the owner of the Leap-Frog pictured. It is in good original condition and the paint, while showing some wear and chipping, is in an unusually good state of preservation for this particular bank.

Colors are as follows: The base is green with the name in gold, the tree stump is dark brown shaded with gray, and the top and other markings are yellow. The back fence is yellow with some white in the board separations. The plate that encloses the mechanism and covers the back of the fence is red. The boy in the stooping position has a red cap and knickers, blue socks and shirt with red and yellow trim. The other boy has a blue cap and knickers, red socks, and a yellow shirt with red trim. Details of the face of each boy, including eyes, eyebrows, mouth, and so on are exceptionally well done. This is the case with all the mechanical banks produced by Shepard where facial detail was concerned.

It bears mention at the moment that a number of the Shepard mechanical banks are quite difficult to find with the original paint in fine or better condition. Including the Leap-Frog, others are Uncle Sam (especially so), Mason Bank, Trick Pony, Speaking Dog, Jonah And The Whale (HOBBIES, February, 1964), Circus Bank (HOBBIES, October, 1952), Humpty Dumpty, Picture Gallery (HOBBIES, March, 1958), and Punch And Judy. Any collector possessing all these banks with original paint in fine to mint condition can feel they have achieved a goal that is very difficult to accomplish.

The bank as pictured is shown at the middle point of its operation. To operate the bank the figure of the leaping boy is placed in position behind the figure of the boy in the stooping position. A coin is then placed in the provided slot in the top of the tree trunk where it stays in place. A lever in the rear of the bank is then moved to the side and the boy in the standing position leaps over the other boy, and in so doing depresses a lever on the tree trunk with his right hand which causes the coin to drop automatically into the bank. The bank is reset by hand as described for subsequent operation.

The Leap-Frog makes a nice addition to a collection, particularly so with its exceptional realistic action. The mechanism which causes this action is unusual and quite clever. It is not felt necessary to go into detail on this; sufficient to point out, however, that it is unique and completely different than any other known mechanical bank.

It is with much regret the writer reports the death of Edward T. Richards of Peace Dale, R.I., on January 14, 1964.

Ed was very well known in the mechanical bank collecting field and both he and his wife, Grace, were most avid and enthusiastic in their efforts of building up an outstanding collection of mechanical banks.

Mr. Richards founded and presided over for many years the Mechanical Bank Collectors Club of Rhode Island and was the prime organizer and president of the Mechanical Bank Collectors Club of America. He was also a well known and leading attorney with offices in Providence, R.I.

We know that many HOBBIES readers who knew him personally will be deeply touched, as was the writer, by the sad news of his untimely death.

Boy Scout Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1964

A mechanical bank that represents a very fine worthwhile organization is our choice as No. 118 in the numerical classification. This is the Boy Scout Bank and it well depicts one of the important and original activities of scouting, camping out. The Boy Scouts of America, since its inception, has been and continues to be a great stimulating constructive movement for boys in their formative years. The fact that a mechanical bank was made to more or less commemorate this organization

during its early stages certainly adds a degree of interest and stature to the bank itself. And with the continuing increased activity and interest in scouting over the years, this naturally has reflected through to the Boy Scout Bank as an increasingly desirable collector's item.

The bank was made by the J. & E. Stevens Co. of Cromwell, Conn., and very definitely designed by Charles A. Bailey. So far the writer has had no luck in locating any patent papers that would apply to the bank. This, like some other banks designed by Bailey, has no dates or other helpful information on the bank itself, however, this does not preclude the fact that the bank may have been covered by a regular or design patent. It is the writer's opinion that if papers do exist covering the bank they are in the form of a design patent and future research will bring them to light. Stevens catalogs, in this case, are helpful in placing the approximate period in which the bank was originally produced. It is not shown in their 1911 catalog or prior to this time but it is pictured along with their Called Out Bank (HOBBIES, Oct., 1955), another Bailey item, in the 1917 catalog. So this narrows it down to a six year time period between 1911 and 1917.

The bank shown, which is from the fine collection of Leon Perelman of Merion, Pa., is in nice original condition with good paint. Colors are as follows: The base area around the tent is done in green highlighted in gold with some gray areas representing soil and rocks. The tree to the right of the tent is tan with green foliage over to the top of the tent. The owl perched in between is white with gold overtones. The tent is a cream color and a red pennant with gold staff rests against same. The large cooking pot is black with a silver handle, and the coffee pot is also silver. The scouts have brown uniforms and hats with orange socks and black shoes. Face and hands are flesh color. The flag held by the scout is white and the wording thereon, "Boy Scout Camp," is in gold.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the provided slot located in the foliage of the tree on top of the tent. The coin stays in place. The lever, located underneath the owl, is then depressed. The coin drops into the bank automatically and the scout holding the flag raises it high over his head. Releasing the lever causes the scout to lower the flag.

Certain information as to the origin and so on of the scout movement is in order and of interest. The boy scout idea was founded in England by Sir Robert Baden-Powell. This was to develop self reliance, resourcefulness, courage and other hardy virtues among the recruits to the constables that were sent out to him in South Africa. After the Boer War he was invited to develop a program for boys based on his ideas and the program included two units in the United States. This was in 1908. In our country during this year the Sons of Daniel Boone was organized by Daniel Carter Beard and the Woodcraft Indians were organized by Ernest Thompson Seton.

In 1910 the actual Boy Scout movement as such was brought to the United States by William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher. On a visit to England Boyce accidentally came across a boy scout in the street who directed and took him to a certain address he was seeking. The scout was most courteous and refused to accept the coin offered to him by Boyce. This intrigued Boyce and he checked into the scout movement, thus became interested and returned with this interest to the United States. The scouting movement was then incorporated as The Boy Scouts of America, February 8, 1910. In September of the same year Sir Baden-Powell visited the United States and under his direction the National Council of Boy Scouts was organized. President Howard Taft accepted the office of Honorary First President and Teddy Roosevelt was Honorary Vice President and Chief Scout. Daniel Carter Beard was the first National Scout Commissioner.

In 1916 the organization was granted a Federal Charter by Congress. It is non-sectarian, non-political, and neither military nor non-military in character. In 1963 the Boy Scouts of America had a membership total of 5,322,000.

Many basic ideas in back of the original boy scout movement as organized would seem to be

more closely based on the Woodcraft Indians as set up by Seton. There are a number of books by various authors that go into many detailed phases of the scouting movement, its origins and so on, and anyone interested in the subject, beyond the information herewith, can pursue the matter further by use of these books.

In closing, the Boy Scout Bank is a very attractive item and in spite of the fact that it is a rather late bank, it is not readily available and somewhat difficult to find in nice original condition. It would logically follow that the bank would have a popular appeal and therefore be produced in quantities, however, it came rather late in the popularity era of mechanical banks and thus was not apparently manufactured over a period of years, nor were any great quantities ever made in any given time.

"Starkie's Pat. No. 152,588" (Moves Ears)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1964

A mechanical bank which is surrounded with confusion, more so than any other known to the writer, is our choice as No. 119 in the numerical classification. This is the "Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears)," and the writer continually receives letters which practically all contain the same questions regarding what is thought to be this bank. Unfortunately in all cases the questions have not been about this bank, but are in fact about another somewhat recent type with similar appearance and action. It is hoped that information herewith will once and for all clarify this situation.

To begin with, the bank pictured is an original Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears) made in England in the period of the 1920's. On the back between the shoulders in a semi-circular fashion is inscribed "Starkie's Pat. No. 152,588." This patent was issued to Robert Eastwood Starkie of Burnley, England, October 21, 1920. It contains a detailed descriptive text and five diagrams which accurately cover the bank as produced. It is made of aluminum and apparently Starkie never had any of these banks made of cast iron or other metal. The very few originals of this bank that the writer has ever seen over the years have all been aluminum and somewhat crude in their castings as compared to other mechanical banks. This being a little crude in its construction goes along with Starkie's Tank & Cannon Bank (HOBBIES, April, 1959).

The bank pictured is in good condition, particularly so when one considers that the paint was inclined to readily chip from the aluminum surface. Colors are as follows: The jacket is red with a white collar and blue bow tie. There is a white cuff on the sleeve of the right arm and a white band down the front of the jacket with blue buttons thereon. His entire face is black with red lips, red tongue, white teeth and red lines between the teeth. His eyes are white with brown iris and black pupils. The top hat is white with a black band. The entire back half of the bust, excluding the hat, is black (note profile picture). The back of the head has round perforations in the casting arranged in a symmetrical fashion and the base plate has the same type holes or perforations.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the extended hand as shown. The lever at the rear left shoulder is then pressed. This raises the right hand to the mouth and the coin slides therein, and at the same time the tongue recedes into the mouth, the eyes roll downward, and the ears move back and forward. Releasing the lever returns all parts to their normal position.

Now for the movement to the modern or more recent type of this bank which seems to always be confused with the old original one. On August 27, 1945 in the Register of Designs Division of the Patent Office in England, No. 844,290 was issued to a Robert Patterson Starkie covering a bank of similar design, operation and appearance to the bank pictured. This copyright expired August 27, 1950. In addition to the copyright a patent was applied for by Starkie December 1, 1945. No.

32,537, and accepted May 4, 1948 under Patent No. 601,362. This bank was also made of aluminum, but considerably lighter in weight than the original type. It was put on the market as the Sonny Boy Bank and in another version as a clown with a peaked hat and called the Clown Money Bank. Thomas Ashworth & Company — trademark "TACO" — of Burnley, England took over the Starkie business and production of these banks in 1952. Prior to this, from 1947 to 1952, Thomas Ashworth supplied the castings for the banks to Starkie.

There are many differences between the old original bank, named "Jolly Nigger" (Moves Ears) and the modern Sonny Boy version. First check the profile photo and note that the ear is located forward near the eye. A V-shaped section in the back half of the casting fits into a v-groove in the front half and holds the ear in this position. In the Sonny Boy type the ear is located in the center where the front and back castings join together. Secondly there is no inscription of any kind on the back of the Sonny Boy. Third, the base plate on the modern bank is of a waffle type (cross bars) with the following inscriptions: "Reg. No. 844,290," "Starkie's Pat. No. 32,537," "Patented In Foreign Countries." In addition the TACO trademark appears thereon. Fourth, the right arm on the Sonny Boy is not raised up from the elbow as on the Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears), (note full view picture). Fifth, the thumb on Sonny Boy's right hand is a separate casting and not an integral part of the entire arm and hand casting as on the original bank. Sixth, the bow tie is considerably larger on the old type and this also applies to the ears. Seventh, the modern type can be operated by moving the ears by hand. This causes the arm to raise and so on. This cannot be done with the old original — moving the ears by hand causes the eyes to move and tongue to recede but the arm will not rise. Eighth, there are no perforations or holes in the back of the head of the modern type. There are various other differences in the castings, but to sum this all up, when the two banks, old and new, are examined together it is very easy to tell them apart. Certainly the information given above will enable collectors as well as dealers to identify an old, original Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears) should they ever run across one.

The bank shown was found some years ago in Eastern Pennsylvania. As previously mentioned it is in very good condition for this particular bank and it is very difficult to find an original old specimen. As a matter of fact in all the years of collecting the writer has seen less than five of these banks. To further bear out their scarcity every few weeks a letter is received from someone thinking they have an original Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears). In all cases to date, and this covers a considerable number of letters, none of them have had an old original, all have been the recent Sonny Boy.

The Magician Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1964

A magician performing his feats of magic is one form of entertainment with universal appeal, intriguing both young and old alike. The magician seems to maintain and occupy a somewhat unique position as a performer and in turn his counterpart or representation in a mechanical bank can be said to occupy a unique position among the mechanical banks. While there are a certain number of the mechanicals that have to do with magic in one form or another, there are none that more accurately depict the magician than the Magician Bank itself, our choice as No. 120 in the numerical classification. Very frankly this bank has always been one of the writer's favorites — it has good interesting action, an attractive appearance, a coin is a necessary part of the action, and it is a well proportioned piece. Then, of course, the subject matter, magic, very definitely adds to its desirability.

The bank was patented January 22, 1901, by William C. Bull of Philadelphia, Pa., assignor to Abraham L. Kesner, also of Philadelphia. This, like a number of the mechanicals, was patented as a "money box," and the papers contain two drawings of the bank. In this case the bank as actually produced is considerably different than the original patent drawings. For example, the overall appearance and configuration of the actual bank, plus much of the mechanism, is quite unlike the drawings. The figure of the magician, the table, and general principle of operation are, however, somewhat similar. This is not an unusual circumstance as many of the mechanical banks are at variance with their respective patent papers. There were numbers of reasons for these changes, including a better operating bank, a more attractive item, more efficient operating mechanism, problems of casting parts, ease of assembly, and so on. In the specific case of the Magician Bank there is no question but that the changes made from the patent drawings resulted in a more attractive bank with better operation. It was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., and pictured in their catalog for 1906, but does not appear in the 1911 issue or any of their catalogs after that year.

The bank shown is in fine original condition with good paint. The back and front of the platform, which has steps on each side, are blue with yellow edgings. The name "Magician Bank" is in black. The steps and floor of the platform are a yellow-orange color. It is possible that this section may have originally had a pink or red flocking thereon to represent a rug. The writer has seen an example of this bank with a light coating of gray flocking over the steps and floor of the platform and there is no question in his mind but that it was originally made in this fashion. This does not preclude the possibility, however, that numbers of the Magician Banks were originally produced with this same section simply painted and no flocking applied. The table is red with gold edging on the legs. The magician's outfit, including his hat, is black with a white shirt front and black bow tie. His hands and face are flesh color and his eyes, eyebrows, goatee, and elegant turned-up mustache are all black, as is his hair. A defined part of the casting of the hat is outlined in gold to represent a wand held in the right hand of the magician.

The bank operates as follows: A coin is placed on the provided section in the center of the table (note picture). The lever is then depressed. The magician lowers his hat covering the coin on the table and at the same time his head tilts forward as though observing his own actions. Upon releasing the lever the parts automatically return to the position as shown in the picture and the coin has disappeared. The magician, of course, is now ready for another coin so he can make it disappear too. Actually the coin rests on a trap door, the hat when lowered trips the trap and the coin slides into and down a chute through the legs of the magician and on into the base platform. The trap door is spring actuated so that it automatically returns to place when the hat is raised. It's a clever action bank, well designed, and will work with any coins up to and including those the size of a quarter.

Mason Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1964

It bears mentioning that we have reached a point in the classification articles where a number of the mechanical banks are in the same area of desirability, value, and so on. That is to say they all have about the same rating and placing one ahead of another can be somewhat a matter of personal choice. This would apply to several already covered, the present article, and a number to be covered in future articles. Those we have done so far that are in the same level or rating category

are the Magician Bank (June, 1964), Boy Scout Bank (April, 1964), Leap Frog Bank (March, 1964), Jonah & The Whale (February, 1964), Zoo Bank (November, 1963), and several others.

Most of the banks in this same rating level are quite interesting, appealing, and have good action. This, of course, led to their popularity in their respective periods, and thus quantities of each were made and sold. So, while these banks are more or less common as compared to those in the first 100 mechanical banks (HOBBIES, February, 1962), actually they are among the most interesting and desirable of the mechanicals from the standpoint of good action, popular appeal, and so on. By the way, describing these banks at this level as being common is not meant to convey the impression that they are readily available. Such banks as the Boy Scout Camp, Jonah & The Whale, and others in this area are not easy to come by, particularly so in good original condition with no missing parts or repairs. Some of the other mechanicals in this same rating group to be covered by future articles are Cat & Mouse, Mammy & Child, Bill E. Grin, Boys Stealing Watermelons, Clown On Globe, Monkey With Tray, a number of others, and now at present the Mason Bank, our choice as No. 121 in the numerical classification. This is a good action bank with good subject matter and an attractive appearance.

The Mason Bank shown is from the fine collection of Leon Perelman of Merion, Pa. He obtained it from an Eastern antique dealer and it is in good original condition. The bank was patented under a design patent February 8, 1887 by Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams of Buffalo, N.Y. The design patent states "said Adams assignor to Walter J. Shepard of same place." The bank was manufactured by the Shepard Hardware Company, also of Buffalo. It is one of their "Excelsior Series," and the bank itself bears this inscription on the underside of the base plate. The drawing which is part of the design patent is practically identical to the bank as produced by Shepard Hardware, even to the details of the facial characteristics of the two figures. Actually about the only difference is the fact that the name "Mason Bank" does not appear on the sketch or drawing.

As mentioned, the bank is a very attractive item and painted in realistic colors. The brickwork which represents a wall or portion of an unfinished building is red with mortar spaces in white. This rests on a block-like section or base which is blue-gray. The overall base surface of the bank is tan and the bucket setting thereon is yellow with black bands and handle. The mortar receptacle resting on the base is brown and the mortar mix therein is light gray. The hoe in the mortar mix is black with a brown handle. The angled sides or edges of the base are maroon with black and gold striping. The figure of the hod carrier has black shoes, blue trousers, green suspenders, red shirt, and a gray hat with a green band. His face and arms are flesh pink and, as with all the Shepard produced banks, the facial work is very well done with well defined eyes, eyebrows, and so on. The hod over his right shoulder is tan and brown with gray mortar. The figure behind the wall laying the brick has a blue jacket and white shirt. His hat is brown and yellow, the trowel is brown and again holding gray mortar. Face and arms are the same color as those of the hod carrier and the facial work is excellent with a fine, large black moustache. The back of the building or wall section is maroon with a gray top. On the square shaped end of this section appears the name "Mason Bank" in large gold block letters. This name is repeated on the base in front of the mortar receptacle in smaller block letters, also in gold. The many different colors used make it quite a colorful bank.

The bank operates as follows: A coin is first placed in the hod. The lever, located in the end of the bank by the mortar receptacle, is then depressed. This causes the hod carrier to lower his right arm tilting the hod forward. The coin slides from the hod into a provided section behind the brick wall. This section opens automatically to receive the coin. The other figure raises both arms lifting the trowel and brick simultaneously. Upon releasing the lever all parts return of their own accord to

the positions shown in the picture. The section that receives the coin also closes automatically. So the bank has nice realistic action and the coin plays a part in this action, which is a desirable feature. Accumulated coins are removed from the bank by means of a rectangular key-lock coin trap in the base plate under the building-like section.

The Mason Bank makes a very interesting addition to a collection of mechanical banks with its construction or building motif. It is unique among the mechanicals in representing and utilizing this subject matter as its theme.

Two New Discoveries

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1964

The formulation of a collection of mechanical banks is a fascinating hobby which offers, among many other things, a sustained seemingly never ending interest. This interest is stimulated by the fact, unlike many other collectible items, every now and then some heretofore unknown specimen turns up. For some years now this has been going on, since mechanical banks were first collected through the years to date, and all evidence points to the fact that this will continue to be the case for years to come. A never ending challenge exists for the individual bank collector to own an example of each bank ever made, but this is practically an impossibility for any one person to ever accomplish. In a number of cases only one or two specimens of a certain mechanical bank are known to exist, however, there is always the chance and hope that more will turn up.

In any event, at present the writer is most pleased to pass along the unique news of the discovery of two previously unknown mechanical banks. There is no question of them being commercially produced items and therefore made in some quantities. Both banks are tin, one was known to have been manufactured due to old catalog information in the writer's possession, and the other was completely unknown to the best of the writer's knowledge.

Negro Bust (Tin)

This bank could be said appearance-wise to represent in miniature the Hindu (HOBBIES, February, 1955) except, of course, that it is the representation of a Negro. As can be judged from the picture, Figure 1, it is obvious as to its small size when compared to the penny shown beside the bank. Originally it was a brightly colored item with various colors including red, blue, and yellow, however, the one pictured is somewhat the worse for wear with some rusting evident. The operation is simple, a coin dropped in the provided slot in top of the turban causes the eyes to roll and the tongue to stick out. The weight of the coin causes the action and the parts return to their respective positions automatically. This bank is pictured in the Butler Bros. catalog circa 1907 and was listed to sell at 33 cents per dozen. It is a somewhat fragile item of rather light tin and obviously could not stand any degree of rough usage. Its size plus its lack of durability most likely accounts for the fact of its scarcity today. In the writer's opinion the bank was made in Germany.

The Sentry Bank (Tin)

Through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. William Werbell the writer is able to pass along information on the Sentry Bank. They were kind enough to send it to the writer so that he could look the bank over, photograph it, and so on. It is a very nice bank, attractive appearance, and has good action. It is of German manufacture and very similar to the Minstrel (Tin) and the Scotchman (Tin). As a matter of fact, in the writer's opinion, all three were made by the same concern.

The bank is lithographed tin in various colors of brown, red, blue, and so on. Note Figure 2 which shows the bank before the action takes place. Depressing the knob as in Figure 3 causes the

Sentry to move the gun into the position shown and his eyes look to the right. In so doing the coin slot in his hat is opened from the inside so that coins may be inserted. Releasing the lever returns all parts to the positions as in Figure 2, including the fact that the coin slot is blocked from the inside. In other words, the bank must be operated in order to insert any coins. The specimen shown is in very good condition and the Werbells are to be congratulated on their recent new find.

In closing, the Sentry along with the Negro Bust offer a further incentive to all mechanical bank collectors in trying to add one or both to their respective collections.

Mammy and Child Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1964

A mechanical bank with two coin slots that receive coins in a different fashion, simultaneously, or individually, is our choice as No. 122 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. The Mammy & Child is the bank with this unusual feature and it is a very attractive well made item with excellent realistic action. Here again is another bank that is among the writer's favorites. The theme and idea of the action is quite original, with the coin in one case representing either food or medicine being given to the baby. In addition to the unique feature of the two coin slots the subject matter of the bank is also unique among the mechanicals.

The Mammy & Child was patented October 21, 1884 by Alfred C. Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., and manufactured by Alfred C. Rex & Company. The patent papers and accompanying drawing are of noteworthy interest. The two drawings, for example, are practically identical to the bank as produced except for one unusual feature. The bank as manufactured is in complete reverse to the original patent sketches. As example, in the drawings the Mammy holds the child's head in her right hand and the spoon in her left hand. The operating lever is on the left side instead of the right, and so on. This is one of the only cases the writer knows of whereby a mechanical bank was made with parts transposed to the positions as shown on the original patent drawings. The patent was issued to Rex as a "Toy Money-Box," and is referred to in the papers in several places as a "Mechanical Toy Money-Box." Attention is called to the fact that the child's large wide mouth serves as one of the coin slots and that this is "capable of receiving a five cent piece." Then it is pointed out that the slot in the apron pocket can be used for larger size coins and that the mechanism operates in either case. In other words, no coins can enter the bank through the apron pocket slot without working the operating lever which, of course, causes all parts to function, including the inside mechanism of the pocket slot. This allows the coin to drop in automatically. The patent papers go on to state that the pocket slot is of "sufficient width to take in a quarter of a dollar." Actually it will accommodate a half dollar as shown in the picture. Apparently this change was made in the production bank as an improvement since the mouth of the baby will take no coins larger than the five cent piece as stated in the patent. Thus quarters as well as half dollars work nicely in the pocket section.

The bank shown is in unusually fine all original condition and formerly resided in the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby. The spoon is complete and all original. This is quite unusual as most specimens of this bank turn up with the spoon completely gone or at best with the handle part there but the bowl missing. Apparently children were prone to play with the spoon part, and since this is not cast iron but rather a piece of formed sheet metal it was subject to being bent and thus eventually breaking off. The spoon was cast into the right hand part in such fashion that the thumb and index finger meet on the top surface of the handle and thus actually give the appearance that

the spoon is being held and gripped by the thumb and fingers. This is a well made part but it could not stand any great degree of rough treatment, and it is quite exceptional to possess one of these banks with the complete spoon intact.

Along with the fact of the pictured bank being all complete and original is the further point of the paint being in extremely fine condition. It is painted in bright attractive colors. The face and hands of the Negro Mammy are a dark brown, she has white eyes with black pupils, a red mouth and white teeth. The red scarf on her head and the one around her neck have yellow polka dots thereon. She wears a dark blue dress with black shoes. The cuffs of the sleeves of her dress are yellow with red polka dots. Her apron is white with red trim at the top, bottom, sides and along the top pocket edge. The baby rests on a large red pillow with yellow polka dots. The baby's face, hands, feet and legs are a lighter brown than the Mammy's. She has white eyes with black pupils and red lips. Her dress is yellow with white trim at the bottom. The hood covering the baby's head is white. The Negro Mammy is sitting on a red seat and both the operating lever and the spoon are gold.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the spoon as shown in the picture. Another larger coin can be placed in the pocket as also shown in the picture. The operating lever (not shown in the picture) is then pressed downward. This is done more or less slowly and carefully, unlike most of the banks, so that the coin on the spoon is caused to slide properly into the mouth of the baby. When the lever is depressed the Mammy lowers her head as though watching what she is doing. At the same time she turns her right hand lowering the spoon to the open mouth of the baby so that the tip of the spoon touches the lower lip of the baby. The coin slides into the baby's mouth and on into the bank. In conjunction with this action the legs of the baby rise upward and the coin in the apron pocket drops automatically inside of the bank. Occasionally it is necessary to maneuver the lever somewhat to cause the coin to slide properly from the spoon. Upon releasing the lever all parts return automatically to the positions shown in the picture. Coins are removed from the bank by means of a key lock coin trap in the bottom or underside.

In closing it bears re-mention that the Mammy & Child is a most attractive bank with unusually clever and realistic action. It is a good challenge to find one completely original including the spoon. When sold commercially in the 1880's and after, catalogs of the period listed the bank as the "Baby Mine." In later years as a collector's item the present name was used to better identify it.

Bill E. Grin

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1964

A rather late mechanical bank which is another of the writer's favorites is our choice as No. 123 in the numerical classification. This is the Bill E. Grin, an exceptionally nice little bank, unusual in appearance, and the action necessitates the use of a coin. The bank fits into two groups; the bust group, and since it represents a clown it can also be classed in with the circus type banks.

This particular bank intrigued the writer for years insofar as trying to find one in all original condition with better than good paint. In the first place it is somewhat difficult to find an original Bill E. Grin since it was a late bank and apparently never made in any great quantities. Being a late item and made after the popularity of the mechanicals was more or less over, it was therefore not made over a long period of time, unlike many of the other banks. Then some years ago a party in New Jersey made a number of reproductions of the bank, and while these are still around and have fooled a few dealers and collectors alike, they are not difficult to judge for what they are—recasts.

The original bank has a fine smooth surface inside and out for one thing, and the recasts are rather rough and poorly painted. They are in fact painted to look old and this is rather obvious in itself. The paint work, in addition to being rather crude, is considerably off in colors, apparently to give an aged effect. They are a yellow-brown color, while the originals are white. This leads to another reason for the difficulty in obtaining a nice original Bill E. Grin. When they were manufactured only a light coat of white paint was used over the entire bank, and all that were made were painted in this fashion. This paint was not durable, chipped and scratched rather easily and could not stand much wear. Then too this was the type bank that lent itself to possible rough usage such as the Hindu (HOBBIES, February, 1955) by being tossed around in toy boxes, and so on.

The Bill E. Grin was patented July 27, 1915 by J.W. Schmitt of New York City and manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. The bank was made exactly the same as the five drawings that are part of the patent papers. Several points of interest in connection with this bank are herewith quoted from the text of the patent papers:

"My invention relates to toy banks and more particularly to a type of non-registering banks having movable parts adapted to be actuated by a coin inserted therein for the purpose of affording amusement.

"In toy banks of the type to which my invention relates, the object sought to be attained is the encouragement of the habit of saving in the young by providing a bank structure, the operation of which, upon the insertion of a coin therein, will be amusing or grotesque.

"A bank made in accordance with my invention embodies a casing so constructed as to simulate the head and shoulders of a human being, and having mounted therein a simple mechanism which will, when a coin is deposited in the bank, be so actuated as to simultaneously change the expression of the eyes and project the tongue in a manner to amuse and to arouse the interest of the user. The arrangement of the mechanism is such that the effect produced will vary in accordance with the sizes of different coins deposited. The mechanism for actuating the tongue and eyes is simple in design, may be readily assembled in the bank casing, and, in addition to securing the effect of a change in facial expression of the casing, will protect the coin slot and the mouth opening in a manner to prevent the removal of coins from the bank therethrough. The various parts are overbalanced in such a way as to dispense with the use of springs and hence the mechanism cannot be so disarranged as to clog the coin slot or permit the coin to be withdrawn therethrough."

The bank pictured is in exceptionally fine original condition and the best specimen of this bank the writer has ever seen. Colors are fine and bright and it is painted, as are all other originals known, as follows: The overall bank is white in a sort of cream tinge. The eyebrows, two marks between the brows, the eyes, and the name Bill E. Grin are all done in black. The lines beside each of his eyes are red as are the two v-shaped marks on each cheek. His tongue and lips are also red. There is a black line around his collar and a black button above the name. On the back of the bank appears the wording "Pat. App'd. For." In the base of the bank is the conventional round Stevens coin trap.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the slot as shown in the picture. Pushing the coin into the slot causes the eyes to give the effect of blinking and the tongue protrudes from the mouth. Parts return automatically to the position shown after the coin drops inside.

Cat and Mouse Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1964

A rather large impressive appearing bank that actually looks more like a clock than a savings device is our choice as No. 124 in the numerical classification. This is the Cat And Mouse Bank, and upon first seeing the item few people would realize that it is an animated toy bank. While no clock face is evident the general appearance and configuration leaves the impression that it is a clock. In any event, the bank is a very well made item, unique in both appearance and action.

The bank was patented April 21, 1891 by James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa. Here again the patent papers are of considerable interest. Please note the picture and in particular the mouse clinging to the ball that is held in the upraised hind legs of the cat. In the patent papers and the drawings specifically this ball is held so that the mouse faced the front and actually revolved with the ball. In other words it was designed by Bowen so that when the action took place the mouse spun around with the ball suspended in the hind paws of the cat. Apparently this was changed by the J. & E. Stevens Company, the manufacturers of the bank, to simplify its production.

As we shall see though this does not follow through smoothly with the continuity of the action as originally planned by Bowen. Although it is possible he made the change himself as it could be the additional mechanism and parts were not practical or feasible to permit this extra action. In addition to this change from the original patent papers, an entirely different figure was possibly used in place of the cat standing on his head as pictured. Several examples of this part were found at the Stevens Company some years ago. In this case a fierce-looking cat is sitting upright and the mouse is held in the mouth of the cat. In addition a kitten has the mouse by the tail. While it is not known how many banks, if any, were actually produced in this fashion, there is no question but that it was felt by certain individuals at Stevens that this was a too realistic representation, likely somewhat unpleasant to children, and thus discarded in favor of the more pleasing figure as shown in the picture herewith.

Leon Perelman of Merion, Pa., is the owner of the excellent specimen shown. It is in original condition with fine paint and the colors are as follows: The overall bank is brown and the ornate parts on each side are a tan color. Sections done in gold include the decorative feet or legs of the base, the front area under the lever, and the circular beading around the large face of the cat. This face is black and white with a large red bow under the mouth. Blue is used to highlight the background of this circular area. The cat standing on its head has a bright yellow costume trimmed in red and blue and the face is painted the same as the larger one. The ball is white with red stripes and the mouse is gray with black eyes. On the base is inscribed the patent date of April 21, 1891. It bears mention that the Cat And Mouse Bank was painted in various ways, that is to say other specimens have the large face of the cat in two tones of gray and the costume of the cat on top in red, some have the overall bank in a gray color instead of brown. In any case, it is a very colorful, attractive bank.

The bank as pictured is shown after the action has taken place. To operate the bank from the position shown the figure on top is pushed backward and it revolves and clicks in place inside the bank. As this is done the figure of a mouse revolves into place on top of the bank. This mouse faces forward. The bank is now ready to operate. A coin is placed in front of the mouse. The lever, under the large cat's face, is then depressed and the mouse disappears to reappear on the ball as shown in the picture. The coin drops on down inside the bank. Coins are removed by means of the conventional round type Stevens trap.

Pelican Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1964

In selecting the bank which is the 125th in the numerical classification an old saying is brought to mind, which goes something like this: "A peculiar bird is the pelican — His bill holds more than his belly can." True or false this does not apply to the Pelican Bank since the inside of the pelican holds more coins than his bill ever will. However, as we shall see, his bill does hold a surprise therein.

John Girard of Trenton, N.J., patented the Pelican Bank, October 15, 1878. He assigned the patent to the Trenton Lock & Hardware Company, also of Trenton, N.J. They manufactured the bank and made it practically identical to the five diagrams in the patent papers. It is a unique item, both in appearance and operation. As a matter of fact, on first seeing the bank one would not necessarily recognize it as a savings device, but rather as a figure for decorative purposes. Only the slot in the top of the head for insertion of coins indicates its being a bank. It is a very well made piece with fine detail and quite attractive. It bears mention at this point too that no markings of any kind are on the bank itself. So here we have a case where a bank was patented but no dates or anything else appear on the bank to identify it as being patented.

The Pelican Bank shown is in original mint condition. It is painted an overall very dark japanned color highlighted and mixed in with gold bronze. The eyes are red. The figure inside the pouch of the bill has a brown face and large red mouth with white teeth. The eyes are white with black pupils. He or she, as the case may be, has either a white turban or duster type hat on its head. The figure from this point on back is red. This figure has often been referred to as a Hindu, however, it could well be a Negro Mammy. The writer is inclined to believe it is the latter.

To operate the bank the top of the bill (open as shown in the picture) is pushed down. This in turn pushes the figure into the pouch where it locks in place. Pressing a coin into the slot in the top of the head releases the mechanism and the figure springs up into position pushing the top part of the bill open and thus exposing the figure as shown in the picture. The coin drops inside the body of the pelican. To remove accumulated coins it is necessary to take out two screws that hold the pelican to the base. The base, by the way, is very decorative with shells, fish, seaweed and the like thereon.

An advertising flyer from the late 1870's or early 1880's has considerable interest. This was issued by James M. Vance & Company, Hardware and Cutlery, 211 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. This flyer pictures the Pelican Bank and the text is as follows:

The Ornamental Pelican
Savings Bank
Patented October 15, 1878
Combines Amusement,
Ornament and Utility

As a savings bank it is as useful as any that have been offered for the favor of the public.

The very neat mechanical trick by which the mocking face of the cashier appears when a coin is deposited is a source of perpetual surprise and amusement to young and old.

The bank is handsomely bronzed and is highly artistic in design and execution making it a desirable ornament for the bracket or mantle.

The form is novel and attractive and the reasonable price at which the bank is offered recommends it to buyers generally.

In closing it bears mention that the Pelican Bank was made with three different figures inside the pouch. There is the one shown in the picture herewith, another is an imp type representation thumbing his nose, and the third is that of a rabbit. In the writer's opinion all three types are of

approximate equal desirability, however, the imp thumbing his nose is the more common of the three.

Boy on Trapeze Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1965

A great favorite of the writer's, and one of the nicest of all the mechanical banks, is our choice as No. 126 in the numerical classification. This is the Boy On Trapeze Bank, a very attractive well made item with clever action based on the size and weight of the coin used in its operation. A coin is thus necessary in operating the bank and causes the animated action. This, as has been pointed out in past articles on some of the other mechanical banks, is a very desirable feature. In addition, the bank is well proportioned and has a certain graceful appearance about it.

In spite of the fact that there is evidence the Boy On Trapeze had a patent pending during its period of manufacture, the writer has to date been unsuccessful in his search for any patent papers that would apply to the bank. Fortunately, however, an original advertising flyer of the period is most helpful in establishing factual background information about the bank. This advertising card, like some others used to publicize mechanical banks during their era, is printed on both sides. On one side there are two pictures of the bank in colors. One shows it in position before operation and the other during the action. The pictures accurately depict the bank and are bright and colorful. Printed between the pictures is the following:

Children's Choice
French's Automatic Toy Bank
For one penny dropped in the
head the boy revolves once.
For a nickel twice.
For a quarter dollar three times.
For a half dollar six times.

The other side of the card has the following information printed thereon:

The Children's Choice
FRENCH'S AUTOMATIC
TOY BANK

The Savings Bank that never fails—is always open for deposits—paying interest from the start. For one penny dropped in the head the boy revolves once and deposits the coin. For a nickel he will go around twice—for a quarter dollar three times—for a half dollar four times—showing that the more money the boy gets, the more he will do to earn it.

It is entirely automatic and cannot get out of order.
Each bank packed securely in a wooden box. Patent pending.
For Sale by JACOBS, WHITCOMB & CO. Boston, Mass.
The J. BARTON SMITH CO., Sole Manufacturers, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A.

It's interesting to note that this original advertising item on the Boy On Trapeze actually contradicts itself. The front states he revolves six times for a half dollar, and the back says four times for the same coin. In any event, this is a minor but interesting mistake. The importance of the card lies in knowing the manufacturer, one of the sales agents, and the original name of the bank. The original name, by the way, would indicate that a person by the name of French designed and possibly patented the bank. The name French's Automatic Toy Bank also brings up another salient point. This is the necessity in some cases where the name is not inscribed on the bank itself, such as the one under discussion, for renaming the bank with a more descriptive title. The Boy On Trapeze readily identifies the bank for what it represents, while its original name would give no clue as to its appearance.

The bank shown is in fine condition with good paint and the colors are as follows: The boy has a red shirt with a blue ruffled collar, his socks are also red, as is his peaked hat which is tipped in black. His hands and face are a flesh color. His hair and the ball suspended from his right foot are the same color, a brown maroon shade. Blue trousers or knee breeches and black shoes complete the coloring on the boy. The entire base has a dark brown japanned type finish thereon. The base of the bank bears special mention since it is one of the finest and most attractive of all the mechanical banks. It consists of decorative, somewhat intricate scrollwork on the four sloping sides, as well as the top and bottom sections. A mask is cast at the front and back of the large slot that receives the coins. Two screws would appear to hold the bank together, one screw is genuine and the other is a representation of a screwhead made in the casting. The bottom plate of the base is actually a large coin trap. This is hinged and held in place by one screw. When this screw is turned, the entire plate swings open. The upright side supports that suspend the boy are also cast in a decorative fashion.

The operation of the bank has already been explained in quoting from the original advertising flyer. The solid ball on the right foot acts as a counterweight balance, of course, and the number of revolutions is controlled by the various weights of the different coins used. Needless to say, dimes were not considered by the designer or manufacturer of this mechanical bank as a 10c piece would interrupt the continuity.

In closing it bears mention that the Boy On Trapeze shares similarities with a very rare bank, the Clown On Bar (HOBBIES, April, 1956). Naturally there is no comparison in value between the two banks since the Clown On Bar is a rare, very desirable bank. However, this does not preclude the fact that the operation of the Boy On Trapeze is considerably more interesting and is the more decorative of the two.

Clown on Globe Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1965

A circus type mechanical bank with very lively action is our choice as No. 127 in the numerical classification. This is the Clown On Globe Bank and rather usual, than unusual is the fact that its original name, Funny Clown Bank, was changed to one which is more completely indicative of the bank itself. This is not exceptional as a number of the original names of mechanical banks have been changed to one that is more descriptive. Understand this is in respect to mechanicals such as the Clown On Globe which have no name inscribed on the banks themselves. Being a member of the circus group is a very desirable feature, and this plus other factors of the Clown On Globe, such as its outstanding action and very attractive appearance, make it a must item to have in a collection of the animated toy savings devices.

At this point it may be well to mention that if the writer seems to be enthused about the bank under discussion, he is. As a matter of fact, for some months past and some months to come we are in a period, so far as these articles are concerned, where some of the finest of all the mechanical banks have been and will be covered. Their popularity during their respective periods of manufacture bear this out. And the fact that today they are more available than many of the rare banks is beside the point. We must not lose perspective and appreciation for each bank for what it is and what it represents. This so often happens to collectors as they become more advanced, not only to those who collect mechanical banks, but to collectors of other items as well.

The Clown On Globe is covered by the patent papers of an outstanding mechanical bank, The Girl Skipping Rope (HOBBIES, April, 1952). At first thought this would not seem feasible as there is no resemblance between the two banks whatsoever. However, the patent coverage has to do with the operating mechanism, and here the two banks share similarities. A spinning weighted wheel mounted horizontally inside causes the continuing action of the Girl Skipping Rope, whereas the spinning globe mounted vertically causes the sustained action of the Clown On Globe. So in each case the operation of the mechanism is similar, based on the same principle, and covered by the same patent. The patent was issued to James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., May 20, 1890, under No. 428,450. This patent number is cast on the base plate of the Clown On Globe. It, like the Girl Skipping Rope, was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. Original Stevens catalogs of the period show both banks and designate the Clown On Globe by its original name, Funny Clown Bank. Incidentally, The Girl Skipping Rope was originally called The Jumping Rope Bank in the same catalog.

The bank pictured is from the Perelman Antique Toy Museum and was obtained by Leon Perelman in his area a few years ago through the services of an antique dealer. It is in original condition and with what may be described as good paint. That is to say there is some degree of wear showing on the painted surfaces. This is usual in the case of this bank due to the fact the figure was handled often in each winding of the bank for action, particularly around the face. It is difficult to find a specimen with the original paint in fine condition. Colors are as follows: The Clown has a white face with red mouth and other markings in red. His eyes are well defined with a lighter white, blue iris, black pupils and black lining of the eyebrows and lashes. His peaked hat is gray with red edging. He has a bright red jacket with a yellow accordion-pleated collar. The buttons on his jacket are gold. He has white hands and the ornamental part between them is maroon with gold outlining. Olive color shoes, white ribbed stockings with a red band at the top, and maroon knickers or knee britches complete his outfit. The globe is blue with a wide band in gold around it. The base is in two shades of tan, the top part being lighter. Scrollwork and bead type decoration on the base is in brown. The operating lever is gold. From the description of the various colors used one can readily judge that this is a very colorful bank and took considerable time to decorate. It is, as a matter of fact, one of the most colorful of all the mechanical banks.

To operate the bank please first note the picture and in particular the operating lever and coin slot. These two parts are respectively on the right and left hand side of the top of the base as shown. The lever is pushed upward and snaps into position. This causes a part to partially cover the coin slot from the inside. The clown is then revolved or turned with the globe clockwise. The lever acts as a ratchet as well and clicks into place as the clown is revolved. He can be turned approximately one revolution. A coin is then placed in the provided slot where it rests in position. Pushing the lever down causes the clown to spin rapidly counter-clockwise and the coin is deposited automatically. After this action the bank is reset as described for a somewhat different performance. When set this time, a lever in back of the globe is pressed causing the clown to spring legs up and

head down so that he stands on his head. He then, in this position, will spin around with the globe when the operating lever is pressed.

In closing it bears mention that the Clown On Globe is a bank that could be said to have almost haunted the writer for some years. In the earlier period of collecting mechanical banks many individuals took the Clown On Globe to be the Circus Bank (HOBBIES, October, 1952). Thus over the years numerous letters offered the writer a Circus Bank and in all cases it would turn out to be the Clown On Globe.

Chief Big Moon

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1965

A number of mechanical banks are somewhat obvious as to their action, that is to say when looking at the bank it is rather obvious as to what will take place in the mechanical operation of the parts in connection with the depositing of a coin or operating the lever. Transversely, there are a certain number of mechanicals which one could refer to as a "surprise" group. These are very interesting and entertaining banks as their action parts are often concealed and nothing is apparent as to what the bank does. Banks of this nature have a very definite appeal and are of particular interest to the writer. One of the best of the surprise type banks is Chief Big Moon, our choice as No. 128 in the numerical classification.

Chief Big Moon is an outstanding example of the clever ingenious design work of Charles A. Bailey. How he ever thought up or dreamed some of his designs for mechanical banks we will probably never know, but he certainly had a real knack for utilizing unusual and clever subject matters including political, satire, and so on. Bailey patented the bank August 8, 1899 and assigned the patent to the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., the manufacturers. The bank as produced by Stevens follows the patent drawings in practically every detail. A rare handwritten letter by Bailey covers the transfer of right and title of Chief Big Moon to the Stevens Company. For details of this letter please refer to the special article on Charles Bailey in HOBBIES for February, 1963.

The bank pictured is completely original and the paint is in practically mint condition. Colors are as follows: the sides of the base are a brown gold with a wide silver rim around the bottom, the decorations on each side which include a papoose, tomahawks, peace pipe, Indian Chief bust, the name "Chief Big Moon," and other things are in silver. The top part of the base representing woodland is in green highlighted with bronze and gold, and a couple of blue and white flowers. The rippling blue lake has two white ducks thereon and water lilies are white with green leaves. The large frog normally concealed under the lake is dark green with large yellow eyes and black pupils. His underside is yellow and his mouth red. The figure of the squaw is reddish brown, she has long black hair, and her clothing is yellow. The fish in process of being cooked over the campfire is silver, and the brown tepee has considerable design and figure work inscribed thereon.

To better illustrate the surprise feature of Chief Big Moon, it is shown in two photographs—Figure 1, before operation, and Figure 2, after. As shown in Figure 1 a coin is placed in the provided slot just to the front of the fish's tail. Near the coin and somewhat hidden, a lever (not discernible in either photo) is then lightly touched, immediately the large frog springs from under the lake toward the fish. However, the Squaw lifts the fish up away from the frog, as shown in Figure 2. The coin meantime has been automatically deposited inside the bank, its position replaced by the figure of the frog. All parts are returned to their positions as in Figure 1 by lifting the lake

(which tilts back) and pushing the frog on back and under the lake top. The weight of the lake top, which acts as a trap door, holds the spring balanced mechanism of the frog in place. As mentioned before, this is a very clever well designed bank—one of the best.

In closing, two points of interest are in order. For one, the patent papers explain Bailey's original intent in the way the bank should be operated with a coin. Actually the coin should be pushed into the slot and the frog in moving into position above the coin slot will then strike the hand of the operator affording additional surprise or amusement. This was intended to be an inducement to use coins to operate the bank. The lever as we use it today was originally provided for the sole purpose of operating the bank as a mechanical toy when no coins were available. In other words, Bailey's provision for the lever was only so the bank could be operated without a coin—not to operate the bank when using a coin. Secondly, the bank was originally called the Indian Camp Bank in old Stevens catalogs and advertised as such. The name Chief Big Moon actually refers to the Indian bust itself which appears on each side of the bank. For years now, however, since this name is on the bank, it has been known as such.

Paddy and the Pig Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1965

A most unique situation whereby four different mechanical banks all share the same patent papers confronts us as we reach No. 129 in the numerical classification. This bank is Paddy And The Pig, and it is the fourth one so far to be covered by Patent No. 262,361. Another, The Elephant And Three Clowns on Tub, appeared in the October, 1963, issue of HOBBIES. Previous to this was the article on the Reclining Chinaman, HOBBIES, December, 1959. The one remaining is the Frog Bank which will be taken care of in its proper order. All four of these mechanical banks under the same patent share similarities while still being completely different appearance-wise. One similarity is that each bear the following patent information on the base plate: "Eng. Pat. July 28, 1882 —U.S. Pat. Aug. 8, 1882." All, of course, have somewhat similar mechanical action and mechanism which are covered by the single patent, however, the one under present discussion is by far the most mechanical of all of them with its greater number of moving parts. As a matter of fact, Paddy And The Pig is one of the great mechanical banks with unusually clever fine action. It is a realistic type bank with excellent timing as it is an unusual occasion when the coin does not enter the bank properly during the action.

James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., was the inventor and designer of Paddy And The Pig. It was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. They pictured it for sale in a number of their catalogs and at the time the name "Shamrock Bank" was used. This name, of course, gave no clue as to its appearance, action, or anything else. In later years, since this name was not imprinted on the bank itself, the present name came into usage to better identify it for what it represents.

The Paddy And Pig shown is in exceptionally fine original condition with excellent original paint. Colors are as follows: The base upon which the large figure of Paddy is seated, legs extended, is a grass-like effect in green with some yellow highlighting. Beside the figure under the right knee there is a tan knapsack with a brown stick through the knotted top. A brown jug protrudes from his left rear pocket. Paddy is wearing a dark green jacket with a black collar and cuffed sleeve buttons in gold. His tie is brown and yellow and the handkerchief in his breast pocket is tan with red dots. His breeches are yellow with black buttons, and he has bright red ribbed knee

socks. Shoes are black with large buckles in gold. His hat is gray with a black band. Seemingly held in place under the hat band are two items—a large green shamrock on the front and a white clay pipe on the right side. He has black hair with bushy extended sideburns. His eyelashes and eyebrows are also black. His eyes are white with brown iris and black pupils. He has white teeth and pink lips and tongue. His large face and hands are a flesh color pink. The figure of the pig is all white with black spots. His mouth and under-ears are pink, and he has tan hoofs. The top of his snout is gold and the rope binding his right front leg is tan. As can readily be judged from the description of all these parts and their colors, Paddy And The Pig is a very bright, attractive, colorful bank. This bank normally has a definite appeal the moment anyone sees it.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed, as shown in the picture, on top of the pig's snout. A lever, located in the back end of the bank, is then firmly depressed. In so doing the left front leg of the pig kicks toward his snout and hits the coin knocking it back toward Paddy. Simultaneously with this action, Paddy rolls his eyes upward, opens his mouth and sticks out his tongue. The coin shoots on to his tongue and slides thereon into his mouth and on down inside the bank. Upon releasing the lever all parts return automatically to the positions as shown in the picture.

It bears mention that Paddy's lower jaw is hinged in such fashion that his mouth opens realistically and his tongue really protrudes when he sticks it out. Paddy And The Pig is a fine action bank, well designed, and the coin seldom misses its target.

In closing, a rumor from some years ago that still persists here and there today about Paddy And The Pig should be set straight for the records. This has to do with the period in which the bank was made. Supposedly some Irish Society felt that the bank was somewhat insulting to the Irish race and requested that production be stopped. There is no foundation for this story to the best of the writer's knowledge. The bank was made for a period of years and had popular appeal. It is a very attractive, clever savings device and it would take some stretch of the imagination to find it in poor taste or any way derogatory toward the Irish. Most likely the story was started in order to place it in a rarer category than it actually is, that is to say if production had been stopped there would have been less of them made and consequently considerably harder to find an example today. For the record it is difficult enough to find one today as it is, particularly so in the condition of the one pictured.

Bad Accident Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1965

One of the most popular mechanical banks of the many designed by the great Charles A. Bailey is our choice as No. 130 in the numerical classification. This is the Bad Accident Bank and it is a fine action piece, well proportioned, clever subject matter, and to all appearances is simply a mechanical toy, rather than an animated toy savings device. As a matter of fact, like some of the other mechanical banks, and in particular a number designed by Bailey, there is no question that the Bad Accident, while a savings device, was also intended to be used without coins as a mechanical toy. A couple of other outstanding Bailey banks with this same feature are Shoot the Chute (HOBBIES, January, 1952) and Chief Big Moon (HOBBIES, March, 1965). For information on other mechanical banks that Charles A. Bailey designed, patented and in some cases manufactured, please refer to the special article, Bailey's Banks (HOBBIES, February, 1963).

Like many of the mechanical banks patented and designed by Bailey, the Bad Accident was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. No patent dates or anything of

this nature appear on the bank itself and no patent papers, design or otherwise, are known to exist. At least none have been found to date. However, we can ascertain the period in which it was made through the help of old Stevens catalogs. The Bad Accident appears for the first time in their catalog, circa 1891, and in a number of others after that date. In this catalog there is also pictured what Stevens called the Donkey Wheel Toy. This toy, a pull type, utilized the same donkey as that of the bank, and necessarily a wheel in this case is between the front legs of the donkey. The driver, seated in a cart of the type used on the bank, moved his right arm and hand, with a whip therein, up and down as though urging the animal on. The description of the toy in the catalog states: "Each rotation of the wheels causes the driver to strike the donkey with the whip." Of interest too is the fact that the Bad Accident as pictured in this catalog has the name right side up. The name "Bad Accident" on the actual bank appears on the base alongside the donkey and in the normal sense it is upside down. In other words, to read the name properly one must turn the bank around and view it from the back. Over the years the writer has seen only one specimen of this bank with the name in a readable position when looking at it from the front.

The bank pictured is in fine original condition, and colors of various parts are as follows: The base consists of a tan road with wheel tracks thereon, and on each side of the road is green foliage with white and yellow flowers, (a Bailey trademark). The name, Bad Accident, is in gold. The large cattail plant the Negro boy hides behind has green leaves and the tails are brown. The boy has blue trousers and a red shirt. The donkey is brown with black harness trimmed in some red and gold. The cart is yellow with red striping and a blue and tan top surface. The wheels are red with black markings on the spokes. The driver has black shoes, tan spats, and a tan hat with blue band. He wears red trousers, light blue jacket with dark blue collar, a white shirt, and a red and yellow tie. He holds a ripe piece of watermelon, in appropriate colors, between his hands.

The bank, to better illustrate the fine action, is shown in two photos—Figure 1 before the action, and Figure 2 after. As mentioned previously, the Bad Accident is not an obvious savings device and, as a matter of fact, unless one is familiar with it the place to put the coin is actually somewhat concealed. In any event, to operate the bank the coin is first placed under and between the shoes of the driver as in Figure 1. A two part lever beside the cattail plant is then pressed together with the thumb and index finger. Immediately the boy darts from behind the plant and turns facing the front. Simultaneously the donkey rears back on his hind legs (as though frightened by the boy) and in so doing causes the cart to tilt up and back in the fashion as shown in Figure 2. In turn the coin slides from between the shoes of the driver back into a provided slot in the cart and on inside same. When the lever is released the boy automatically returns to his hidden position behind the plant. To reset the rest of the bank for action, the donkey is pressed down onto the base where the projection on the hoof of his left front leg clicks into place and is held there. Then the cart is moved on down into position as in Figure 1 where it stays in place. Coins may be removed from the cart body by means of a conventional type round Stevens trap in the underside of the cart.

Needless to say, the Bad Accident is a somewhat delicate bank, more or less easily broken, and could not stand rough play or usage. More often than not, when a specimen is found, it isn't in the perfect, unrepaired condition as the one pictured.

Darktown Battery Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1965

The popular American game of baseball is well represented by the bank we have chosen as No. 131 in the numerical classification. This is the Darktown Battery Bank, often as not called the Baseball Bank, and it is one of the really great mechanicals. It has just about everything one could want in a mechanical bank—terrific action, clever and unique use of the coin, excellent designing, attractive appearance, and so on. The bank had wide popular appeal in its day as a toy savings device, and this has carried right down through the years to its present status as a collector's item.

The Darktown Battery was designed and then patented by James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., January 17, 1888. It was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. The production bank is practically identical to the drawings and text of the patent papers, both in appearance and mechanism. No doubt, as was Bowen's custom, he furnished Stevens with the original model or pattern of the bank. Bowen was an outstanding designer of mechanical banks and probably Charles A. Bailey was the only one to top him in this specialized field. Practically all of Bowen's banks are among the best and most desirable. As example, the Girl Skipping Rope (HOBBIES, April, 1952), A Calamity Bank (HOBBIES, November, 1958), Reclining Chinaman (HOBBIES, December, 1959), Elephant & Three Clowns On Tub (HOBBIES, October, 1963), Creedmoor Bank, I Always Did 'Spise A Mule, and others. Then, too, his banks tend to be unique with unusual features. The Darktown Battery, in particular, and the Elephant & Three Clowns On Tub are outstanding examples. They are the only cast iron mechanical banks having three stationary figures, with each figure having movable parts. There are other mechanicals with three figures such as the Clown, Harlequin and Columbine (HOBBIES, November, 1951), Initiating Bank First Degree (HOBBIES, November, 1952), and the Bowen designed A Calamity Bank, however, these all have figures that move but the figures themselves have no movable parts. Bowen's Girl Skipping Rope combines both features of a movable figure with moving parts plus sustained action of the figure and parts. Strangely enough, too, is the fact the Darktown Battery is the only mechanical bank to represent the game of baseball. To the best of the writer's knowledge, only one other patent was issued on a baseball type bank. This was to O.A. Hensel of Pennsylvania in 1928. This bank never got beyond the patent state, however, and thus was not produced commercially.

The Darktown Battery pictured is in excellent original condition with no repairs of any kind. The majority of the examples of this bank that exist today either have some type of repair or need same. The paint on the bank shown is in mint condition and colors of the various parts are as follows: The bottom plate of the base has black edges, the front and back of the base are outlined in brown and the plume type decorations thereon are in pink. The crossed ball bats are yellow with red at the top and handle of each. The two baseballs and small round decorations between the bats are in gold. The name "Darktown Battery," which appears on the front only, is in red. The ends of the base are green. The top of the base between the players is painted brown and the sections under the players are in green with some yellow highlighting. The pitcher has a white cap with red stripes, blue top button, and a yellow visor. He has a red shirt and around his shoulders and down his back is a yellow scarf with blue polka dots. Blue knee britches, black belt, red socks, tan spats, and brown shoes complete his outfit. The catcher is painted exactly the same as the pitcher but he wears no scarf. The batter has a white cap with blue stripes, a red top button, and yellow turned up visor. He has a blue shirt with white stripes and the name "Possums" across the front of the shirt is in red. His knee britches are yellow with a black belt, blue socks with white stripes, and shoes the same as the other two players. He holds a bat painted the same as those on the sides of the base. A brown tree stump is in back of the catcher's right side. All these colors add up to an exceptionally bright attractive bank.

To operate the Baseball Bank, the pitcher's arm is first pulled back into the position as shown in the picture. In so doing his head lowers forward and down and the parts snap into place. A coin is then inserted in his right hand where it is held by means of a thumb-like clamp. A lever located by the tree stump is then pressed down. Immediately the pitcher throws the coin toward the catcher and his head snaps back into position. Simultaneously the batter raises his bat high and turns his head from right to left as though watching the coin. The catcher moves his head forward and his left hand in toward his body as though catching the coin. A lower front section of the catcher moves inward so that the coin actually goes inside his body and drops down into the base of the bank. Releasing the lever returns the various parts of the batter and catcher into the positions as shown in the picture. The coin travels so fast that one must watch closely in order to see it in flight.

The Darktown Battery is one of the finest action banks of all the mechanicals. It could be called a perfect example of what a mechanical bank should be. The coin representing a baseball and taking part in the action as it does is especially desirable. Use of a coin is completely essential to obtain the proper effect.

James H. Bowen justly deserves recognition for the fine mechanical banks he designed and patented. As a matter of fact, if he had only designed two banks, The Girl Skipping Rope and the Darktown Battery, he would be credited with two of the greatest mechanical banks ever made.

Uncle Sam Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1965

The action of the greater number of mechanical banks is set in motion by either of two methods. One, used on the majority of the banks, is by means of a lever or some part that acts as a lever; and the second is the use of a coin which sets off the action, either by its insertion or weight. There are some exceptions to these two methods. For example, a select group of the mechanicals are operated by means of turning a crank. These are the Merry-Go-Round (HOBBIES, December, 1951), Mikado Bank (HOBBIES, February, 1952), Circus Bank (HOBBIES, October, 1952), American Bank (HOBBIES, July, 1955), Woodpecker (HOBBIES, April, 1957), Little Jocko (HOBBIES, April, 1960), and the four different Organ Banks. Two banks, the Presto Savings Bank (HOBBIES, March, 1960) and Bank of Education & Economy (HOBBIES, August, 1962) are motivated by revolving a knob. Then there is the Shoot The Chute (HOBBIES, January, 1952) where the boat when placed on top of the chute slides down and knocks the coin in the bank, and the Wireless Bank whose action is triggered by sound vibrations.

As to the action itself, the majority of mechanical banks operate on either of two basic principles. First, there are those always ready for operation having moving parts all of which return automatically to their respective positions after the action. Second are those having some part or parts which must be moved into certain positions before they can be operated properly. Some mechanical banks combine both basic principles of action, and a good example is the Darktown Battery (HOBBIES, June, 1965). The right arm of the pitcher must be set in position each time the bank is operated. All other parts return automatically to their respective positions after operating the bank. There is a fine group of mechanical banks that have clockwork or windup type mechanisms. These include the Freedman's Bank (HOBBIES, October, 1951), Girl Skipping Rope (HOBBIES, April, 1952), Motor Bank (HOBBIES, December, 1952), Professor Pug Frog's Great Bicycle Feat (HOBBIES, January, 1953), Bull Dog Savings Bank (HOBBIES, May, 1954), Ding Dong Bell (HOBBIES, October, 1954), Organ Grinder & Performing Bear (HOBBIES, February,

1958), and Weeden's Plantation Ducky Savings Bank (HOBBIES, Aug. '63). This group of banks must be wound, of course, before they will operate, however, they are all set in motion by use of a lever or coin. Some have timed mechanism (certain length of time of action per coin), and others operate until they run down, but in either case the figures involved are always ready for action after each respective bank is wound. There are no figures involved on the Motor Bank as the bank is an operating unit in itself.

Only four mechanical banks have a degree of sustained action by means of a counter-balanced part which moves of its own accord after the operating lever, in each case, is released. The Uncle Sam Bank, our choice as No. 131 in the numerical classification, is one of these banks. The others are Jonah & The Whale (HOBBIES, February, 1964), Stump Speaker, and the Speaking Dog Bank. The parts in each case are – Uncle Sam's lower jaw and beard, lower jaw of the Whale, lower jaw and chin of the Stump Speaker, and the tail of the Speaking Dog. The Uncle Sam Bank, as well as the other three, were made by the same concern, The Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo, N.Y. Uncle Sam was covered by a design patent dated June 8, 1886 and a regular patent November 16, 1886, both of which were issued to Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams, assignor to Walter J. Shepard, all of Buffalo, N.Y.

The Uncle Sam shown is one of the finest specimens of this bank ever seen by the writer. It is completely original with excellent paint. This is quite unusual as the paint on most surviving specimens is usually rather badly chipped, peeled, flaked, or worn. For one reason or another, the paint simply didn't stay on most of the Uncle Sam Banks too well. The paint work itself, however, was exceptionally well done with fine facial detail and other parts in bright appropriate colors. These are as follows: Uncle Sam wears a fine gray hat with a wide blue band, having silver stars thereon. His face and hands are a pink flesh color, and the facial detail is exceptional as to the eyes, eyebrows, red mouth, and so on. His long hair and beard are a light gray. His shirt cuffs and collar are white and the flowing tie is white with red stripes. The swallow-tailed coat he wears is dark blue and the lapels are lined with red. His vest is light blue with a number of silver stars on same. The long trousers are white with red stripes and he wears black boots. A green umbrella, in his left hand, with tan handle, gold strap, and black top and bottom, complete his outfit. The large carpet-type bag is brown with the initials "U.S." in gold. The handles and binding are black with a gold line. The rectangular shape box which Uncle Sam stands upon has a gray top with white lines to simulate a platform made of boards. The concave underside edges of platform, the corners of the front, back and side plates, and the concave edges of the bottom plate are in green with yellow striping. The front, back and side plates are in bright red. Each side plate has the name "Bank" in gold. The large eagle on the front is gold and the name "Uncle Sam" on the blue banner held in the eagle's beak is also in gold. This completes the coloring on a bright, attractive mechanical bank.

To operate the bank, a coin is first placed in the extended right hand. A lever to the back of the umbrella is then pressed down. The bag opens and the right arm lowers so that the coin falls into the bag where it stays temporarily. At the same time the mouth of the figure closes tilting the beard forward and upward. On releasing the lever, the arm raises to the position shown in the picture, the bag closes, and the coin drops on inside the base. Uncle Sam's beard, being counter-balanced, then swings up and down, and his mouth opens and closes for some time as though he were talking. The action is clever and quite realistic. Coins are removed by means of a key lock coin trap in the back plate.

Uncle Sam is a true typical American bank and a fine patriotic item. It is unquestionably one of the most attractive of all the mechanical banks and makes a very desirable addition to a collection of the mechanicals.

Home Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1965

A mechanical bank having the possible unique distinction of being designed and patented by a woman is our choice as No. 133 in the numerical classification of mechanical banks. The bank is the Home Bank and, as can be noted in the picture, it was made in two types, one with dormer windows shown on the left and the other without the dormer windows shown on the right. This is not really important insofar as the rarity or value of either type is concerned. One is as good as the other in the writer's opinion, and since both operate the same and are in the main alike, with the exception of the windows in the roof, they are not considered to be two different banks.

Insofar as mechanical banks go, the Home Bank is one of the very early ones. It was designed and then patented July 16, 1872 by Doras A. Stiles of Middletown, Conn. The drawings accompanying the patent papers are practically identical to the bank shown on the left in the picture. That is to say, in addition to everything else, the drawings show the bank with the dormer windows. J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. manufactured the bank.

There is a known circumstance where a woman designed mechanical banks. M. Elizabeth Cook designed, but held no patents, on four mechanical banks made by the Kilgore Manufacturing Company of Westerville, Ohio. She was an artist and sculptress and made the models of the Frog On Rock, Rabbit in Cabbage, Owl (Slot In Head), Owl (Slot In Book), and the Turtle Bank (HOBBIES, November, 1955). Please note that she designed four banks, but that there are actually five since the Owl was made in two types. These are considered as two different banks. Their operating mechanism is not alike and the coin slot location in each is not the same. True this is a border-line case, but it is not of great importance either way one wishes to look at it. What does have some meaning is the possibility that two women designed mechanical banks, and one of them, if we are to assume that Doras Stiles was a woman, may have patented a mechanical bank.

The Home Bank can be referred to as a sturdy mechanical bank. There is not much that can go wrong mechanism-wise and it is not easily broken. However, it is rather unusual to find one of these banks in better than good paint condition. The banks shown are painted as follows: The one on the left has a white top roof with red edging, the roof section containing the dormer windows is blue, the windows are white with red crosslines thereon. The front, back and sides of the building are white with outlining of windows and other parts in red and blue. The name "Home Bank" is in blue. The front door is tan and brown with green striping. The figure of the cashier inside the bank has flesh color features and wears a brown coat and vest. This figure is cast iron as is the rest of the bank. The name "Cashier" which is cast under and in front of the figure is in white. Blue steps and base complete the coloring on this bank. The bank on the right has a yellow top roof with red and blue edging and striping. The section of roof with no dormer windows is red with a white stripe. The front, back and sides of the building are yellow with red and blue outlining of the windows and other parts. The name "Home Bank" is in red. The front door is red and light blue with dark blue striping. The cashier as shown in the picture is painted similarly to the one in the other bank, but has the detail of the buttons on his jacket and vest in yellow and black buttons on his shirt. The figure of the cashier in this case is made of a lead or pewter-like material. This figure is original. The rest of the bank is cast iron. The name "Cashier" is not on this bank. At one time there may have been a paper label with the name thereon similar to that used on the Hall's Excelsior Bank. Red steps and base complete the colors of the bank.

The operation of the bank is simple but effective. The one on the left shows the bank before or

after the operation, and the one on the right is pictured set to go. To accomplish this, the large knob to the right of the door is pulled forward. In so doing the figure moves into the doorway replacing the door, and the knob and lever in the forward position holds all parts in place by means of a slot in the lever. A coin is then placed in the provided section in front of the cashier as shown. The knob is then lightly pushed to the right and the parts all snap back into position as shown in the bank on the left. The cashier, of course, goes inside and the coin is propelled from its holder into the bank.

The Home Bank is a typical "savings bank" type mechanical bank since it represents a bank building complete with cashier. Either type, dormer windows or not, makes a nice addition to a collection.

As of this writing it is not known as a certainty that Doras Stiles was a woman. It is hoped that subsequent research will prove this out one way or the other.

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CORRECTION

Last month's article, Uncle Sam Bank, was erroneously listed as 131 in the numerical classification. This should have been No. 132. Sorry.

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Boys Stealing Watermelons Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1965

Mechanical banks that have to do with or represent farm scenes and country life are particular favorites among many of the collectors of the animated toy savings devices. This nostalgic subject matter is well represented by a limited number of the mechanicals, and while there are not too many, there are enough to form an interesting, desirable group. Those we have covered so far in article form are Milking Cow (HOBBIES, August, 1953), Uncle Remus (HOBBIES, October, 1953), Pump & Bucket (HOBBIES, April, 1962), Hen & Chick (HOBBIES, June, 1962), Boy Robbing Bird's Nest (HOBBIES, January, 1963), Weeden Plantation Savings Bank (HOBBIES, August, 1963), and Bad Accident (HOBBIES, May, 1965). Others as yet not covered in article form are Mule Entering Barn, I Always Did 'Spise A Mule, and our choice as No. 134 in the numerical classification, the Boys Stealing Watermelons. This bank most certainly well depicts a country type scene whose action theme was not an uncommon occurrence in years gone by. Under certain tempting circumstances the compulsive thought of some nice ripe watermelon was just too much to bear for many country boys, and any degree of controlled judgment simply went down the drain. The bank accurately represents a circumstance of this kind.

There is not too much known in any factual area as to the background of the Boys Stealing Watermelons. To the best of the writer's knowledge, the designer of the bank is not known and so far no patent papers have turned up that would apply to this particular bank. Then too old catalog information is sadly lacking. Several features plus certain characteristics of the bank are helpful, however, in forming a fairly accurate judgment as to who made it. For one thing the number 133 which appears on the back plate of the bank is significant. In the same fashion the number 136 is on the Uncle Remus Bank and number 134 on the Zoo Bank (HOBBIES, November, 1963). In addition, all three banks bear striking similarities in their makeup, paint, and so on. Considering all factors the Boys Stealing Watermelons was most likely made by either of two concerns, Kyser & Rex of Phila., Pa., or the Mechanical Novelty Works of New Britain, Conn. The bank was probably produced by one of these companies in the 1885 to 1895 period.

The bank shown is in the fine collection of Leon Perelman of Merion, Pa. He obtained it a few years ago from an Eastern antique dealer. It is in good original condition and painted as follows: The simulated stonework base is white with black highlighting. Above this is a slanted area to represent ground and this is dark brown. The watermelon vine and watermelons are green. Two of the watermelons, the one the boy is reaching for and the one held by the boy on the fence, have white lines thereon. The dog house is tan with a red roof and the dog is black and silver with red mouth and nose. The boy in the prone position has a blue cap, red shirt, and yellow knee britches or knickers. The boy climbing the white fence has a yellow cap, blue shirt, and red knee britches or knickers. The green tree over the dog house is highlighted with yellow and red. A gold operating lever, located on the back of the dog house, completes the coloring of the bank.

To operate the bank a coin is first inserted in the provided slot in the roof of the dog house where it is held in place about halfway into the slot. The operating lever is then depressed. This causes the boy in the prone position to move his right arm down toward the watermelon. At the same time the dog moves out of the dog house toward the boy and the coin is automatically deposited in the bank. On releasing the lever the moving parts return to their normal positions ready for another coin.

The Boys Stealing Watermelons, in addition to being a member of the group of country life type banks, is also representative of another small select group of object lesson banks. Some banks in this group taught a child what to do, but others, such as the Boy Robbing Bird's Nest and Uncle Remus, are constructive in demonstrating what not to do. As example, the tree branch falls with the boy thereon when he is in the act of stealing the bird eggs. The Boys Stealing Watermelons has the same type what not to do object lesson, with the watch dog getting after the boys when in the act of stealing the watermelons. It's a nice interesting bank and makes an attractive addition to a collection of the animated toy savings devices.

The Freedman's Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1965

Many requests have been received over a period of time for a photo of the Freedman's Bank, the rarest and most desirable of all the mechanical banks. We have chosen the time this month to picture the bank originally published in article form in HOBBIES, October, 1951.

Due to a personal tragedy in the writer's family, the death of his father, Dr. F.H. Griffith of Savannah, Ga., on August 21, there will be no regular classification article this month. The articles will be resumed in the November, 1965, issue of HOBBIES.

Bear Standing (Slot in Chest)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1965

A simple action, rather attractive mechanical bank known as the Bear Standing (Slot In Chest) is our choice as No. 135 in the numerical classification. The original name of the bank is unknown to the best of the writer's knowledge, and it may well have been made during the popular "Teddy Bear" period which, of course, was associated with President Theodore Roosevelt. The bank that really commemorates this period is Teddy And The Bear, and this bank will be dealt with in a near future article. In any event, regardless of the original name, the present name "Bear Standing (Slot In Chest)" was chosen some years ago out of necessity in describing the bank with short accuracy

in order to avoid confusion with several other mechanical banks.

Unfortunately factual background information on the Bear Standing has as yet not been established. It is pretty well accepted though that it was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., since, for example, the round conventional type Stevens coin trap patented in 1875 was used on this bank. If we may digress for a moment at this point, we would like to mention a fact of some importance. Over a period of years the writer has received numerous letters with reference to various mechanical banks having been made in 1875 since this date showed on the coin trap. The patent date of February 2, 1875 only has reference to the round Stevens coin trap itself. This same trap with the same date was used on banks made by Stevens for many years on into the 1900's and as late as the early 1920's. So do not be misled by the date of 1875 — it has nothing to do whatever with the period in which a mechanical bank was manufactured. As example, the Bear Standing under discussion has the 1875 round Stevens trap, but it is most unlikely that the bank is of this early period. No patent dates or markings of any kind appear on the bank and, therefore, it is not known who actually designed it. It has, however, for some years been attributed to Bailey, and this is certainly a possibility until we can prove otherwise.

Some collectors feel that the Bear Standing was made by the Kenton Hardware Co. This assumption is based on the fact that Kenton used the same type round trap on some of their still banks such as the Statue of Liberty and on their mechanical Mamma Katzenjammer (HOBBIES, December, 1958). Mamma Katzenjammer employs the use of the same type trap but the diameter is considerably larger than those normally used by Stevens. The same date "February 2, 1875," however, appears on this larger size trap, and Kenton was not making mechanical banks in that period. It is most likely that Kenton as a matter of convenience used the Stevens type trap years after the patent protection had expired.

The Bear Standing shown is a completely original specimen and in good condition for this particular bank. It is rather difficult to find an original since apparently not too many were made. A number of recasts, however, were produced approximately 20 years ago by a party in New Jersey. These are not difficult to distinguish as recasts, and the parts are held together by a screw instead of being riveted and permanently fastened together. The recasts are considerably heavier than the original pictured, parts do not fit together well, and much of the detail in the casting was lost in the recasting of the bank. Unfortunately the Bear Standing lent itself to being recast by its simplicity and the fact it was hard to find an original then, just as it is today. Fortunately, to repeat, the recasts are easily identified as such.

The original bank pictured has the body of the bear painted an overall light tan. He has brown eyes and nose, and a red mouth completes the coloring. The operation like Mamma Katzenjammer, is simple. A coin pushed into the slot, as shown in the picture, causes the mouth to open and it recloses as the coin falls inside the bank.

In the writer's opinion the Bear Standing is a somewhat underrated bank and actually is considerably rarer than most collectors realize.

Monkey With Tray and The Cross Legged Minstrel **by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1965**

Two mechanical banks made of tin and of foreign manufacture are our choices as Nos. 136 and 137 in the numerical classification. The Monkey With Tray is No. 136 and the Cross Legged Minstrel No. 137. They are both rather interesting banks, nicely made, good action, and quite colorful. Everything about the two banks indicates they were made in Germany, and most likely in

the early 1900's. Neither bank carries any of the German markings or terminology that would indicate they were covered by what we call a patent, so it is very doubtful that we will ever know too much about the background of either one. Even if the German designation D.R.G.M. (which is similar to our patent or copyright) did appear on either bank, this would not be helpful other than indicating the bank was a German protected product. The setup of protected items in Germany was entirely different than our Patent Office, and for detailed information on this please refer to the article on the Snake And Frog In Pond Bank, HOBBIES, August, 1961.

The Monkey With Tray pictured is in very nice condition with good original coloring. Around the sides of the box type base appear monkeys in various forms of play. Two are fussing over apples. The monkey on the front is beating a drum. Two on the other side show one monkey knocking in the top hat worn by the other monkey. A monkey on the back is pulling the tail of the monkey who is crushing in the top hat. Five of the six monkeys are dressed in bright clothing of red, green, white and yellow. They all appear on a blue background. The top of the box-like base is red. The large monkey on top of the base is naturally done in shadings of brown and black, giving him a realistic appearance. The inside of his mouth is red and he has a gold collar around his neck.

To operate the Monkey With Tray, a coin is first placed on the tray as shown. The tail of the seated monkey is then pressed down. This causes his arms to raise and lift the tray to his mouth. As the arms rise, the top half of the monkey's head tilts back opening his mouth. A small lever on the tray strikes the underjaw or chin of the monkey, and this allows the coin to slide from the tray into his mouth. Releasing the lever returns all parts to the positions as shown in the picture.

The Cross Legged Minstrel shown is also in fine original condition with bright attractive colors. A red band is around the oval base. Above this appears green grass, red flowers, and green vines trailing up a brown tree trunk. The minstrel leans back against this trunk. He has brown shoes, blue and white striped trousers, bright red frock coat, yellow vest, white shirt, green tie, and a yellow flower in his lapel. In his right hand he holds a yellow top hat with black band.

To operate the Cross Legged Minstrel a coin is placed, as shown, in the slot in his chest where it stays in position. A lever on the right side of the bank is then pressed down. The coin automatically enters the bank and the minstrel moves his right arm forward and down taking off his hat. His right hand also moves forward so his hat is caused to tilt realistically. He does a very neat job of tipping his hat in thanks for the coin. Releasing the lever returns all parts to their respective positions as shown in the picture.

The Monkey With Tray and Cross Legged Minstrel are clever mechanical banks with good action and make interesting additions to a collection of animated toy savings devices. Some collectors do not seem to favor tin mechanical banks as compared to those made of cast iron. This basically, in the writer's opinion, is a mistake as the tin mechanicals offer a fine group of good action banks, and there is one thing for sure, it is most unlikely they will ever be reproduced due to the costs and difficulties involved.

Coin Registering Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1966

A so-called border-line mechanical bank has not come up in the classification series for some time now. As we reach No. 138, however, we have chosen a bank that more or less fits into this category. This is the Coin Registering Bank, a fine handsome savings device, representative of the building type group of the mechanicals. The bank, like the Pump and Bucket (HOBBIES, April,

1962), is a registering bank and this is its main mechanical function — to indicate the increasing amount as each coin is deposited. However, rather than being a simple registering savings device, the Coin Registering Bank has a unique operating feature that has classed it as a mechanical bank for some years now. This has to do with the fact that the dome of the building must be turned clockwise in order to operate the mechanism. This is comparable to the operating pump handle on the Pump and Bucket, and since on this basis it rates as a mechanical bank, then it follows logically that the Coin Registering Bank must also be considered as such. Registering banks, as pointed out in a previous article or two, are in a class of their own and are not considered mechanical banks in the accepted terminology. A few, such as the one under discussion, the Pump and Bucket, Perfection Registering (HOBBIES, September, 1959), and one or two others are classed as mechanicals due to special operating features and mechanisms.

The Coin Registering Bank was made in the 1890 period and this date appears on the front of the bank as shown in the picture. A paper label on the bottom plate states that a patent was pending, although no patent papers have been found to date by the writer. The 1890 date on the bank is significant, but does not mean it was patented in that year. Several old catalogs picture the bank for sale. Conway Brothers of Philadelphia offered the bank at \$9 per dozen and in describing it stated: "It has the great advantage over other banks in the market of registering both 5 and 10 cent coins on the same dial." The Charles Y. Kay Company of Alliance, Ohio, used a similar statement in their catalog picturing the bank, but they listed it at \$12 per dozen, and a nickel plated version at \$20 per dozen. The writer has never seen an example of the Coin Registering Bank in nickel plate. In fact it is difficult enough to find an example of the regular painted type in nice original condition. This brings to mind that when certain banks were originally made in two finishes, painted or nickel plate, the plated type sold at a higher price and was considered more desirable. To collectors today the position is reversed in that the painted type is more highly prized.

The Coin Registering Bank shown is in fine original condition with better than usual paint. The overall building is done in a japanned type brown color finish. The dome is bright red with gold striping and a gold top knob. Key type edging just under the dome is silver and the section below this is gold. The name and date are also in gold. Windows are outlined in silver with bronze decorations. The supporting columns of the front entrance are highlighted in gold. The arched doorway is silver with red doors and gold hinges. The side and back windows are done in similar fashion to those on the front, and the rear doorway is also painted like the one on the front. It's a well designed, decorative, good looking building.

The operation of the bank is accurately described on the original paper label on the bottom plate. This is as follows:

No. 126 Coin Registering Bank (Patent Pending)

Put the nickel or dime in the slot marked for it, and turn the dome to the right until the coin disappears, when the amount will be correctly registered. Do not put nickel and a dime in at the same time, as only one can be registered, and do not put a dime in the nickel slot. When the last coin necessary to make the amount \$5.00 has been deposited the door in the rear of the bank will open.

To set the bank, reverse it while the door is open and turn the cylinder to the left until the figure 0 is opposite the opening. Then spring the door in and the bank is ready for deposits.

In closing it bears mention the writer is not certain as to the actual manufacturer of the Coin Registering Bank. One of a number of concerns could be responsible. It is most likely the company that did manufacture it is also responsible for the Pump and Bucket, Presto Bank (small building), the semi-mechanical Globe Savings Fund, and possibly several others.

Uncle Tom

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1966

There are two Uncle Tom mechanical banks, one with the name thereon, the other without; each, however, has the initials U.T. on the coin trap. They are different banks even though they both have the same patent date and are somewhat alike in appearance. One is known as Uncle Tom (No Lapels) and this is our choice as No. 139 in the numerical classification. The other with the name on the lapels is called, of course, Uncle Tom and is No. 140 in the classification.

Both Uncle Tom banks were made by Kyser & Rex of Philadelphia, Pa. A patent was issued January 24, 1882 to Louis Kyser and Alfred C. Rex as an improvement in toy money boxes and it covered a bust type bank with certain moving parts. These parts, however, were not necessarily to be in accord with the diagram included with the patent papers. Thus we have two similar appearing banks which operate quite differently. Uncle Tom (No Lapels) is shown in Figure 1, and note that his lips and teeth are well defined and he has no jacket with lapels. His shirt is red and he has a blue tie with yellow polka dots. His tongue, lips, nostrils and corners of the eye sockets are red. His eyes are brown with black pupils and his teeth are white.

To operate this bank a coin is first placed on the tongue inside the mouth of the figure. A lever in back of the head is then pressed down. This causes the tongue to recede dropping the coin inside the bust. At the same time his eyes lower. On releasing the lever the moving parts return to the positions as shown in Figure 1.

Uncle Tom, Figure 2, has lips that protrude, no teeth, and wears a jacket with the name Uncle on the right lapel and Tom on the left. His jacket is blue with the name in gold. He has a white shirt and a red tie with white polka dots. His inside lower lip, tongue and eye socket corners are red. His eyes are white outlined in black with black pupils.

To operate this bank a lever located in the center of his back is first pressed or pushed in. This causes his tongue to come forward and protrude over his lower lip. At the same time his eyes roll up. A coin is then placed on his tongue and the lever released. The parts return to the position as shown in Figure 2 and the coin slides from his tongue on inside the bank. This bank operates on the basic principle as outlined in the drawing accompanying the patent papers. There is a spring shown in the patent drawing, but this is not necessary as the weight of the parts is sufficient to cause them to operate as described.

It is interesting to note that Uncle Tom, Figure 2, is one of the lever operated mechanical banks where the lever is pressed before the coin is placed in position. There are only a few mechanical banks that operate in this fashion, and one other that comes to mind at the moment is the Old Woman In The Shoe (HOBBIES, March, 1953).

Just why Kyser & Rex chose to make Uncle Tom in two different types may never be known for sure. Nor can we tell which was made first or if they were manufactured concurrently. Both mechanisms are sturdy and substantial and would stand considerable usage so this could not have been a factor. There is this possibility—when placing the coin on the tongue of the one in Figure 2 there is a tendency for the coin to slide off the tongue into the bank before the lever is released. Actually, while the writer's preference seems to lean towards this bank, the other, Figure 1, operates much better and the coin cannot go into the bank until the lever is pressed.

In closing it bears mention that the rare Hindu Bank (HOBBIES, February, 1955) was produced

by Kyser & Rex under the same patent as that covering both Uncle Tom banks. Detailed information concerning this was included in the Hindu Bank article.

Bull Dog Standing - - - Bear and Tree Stump

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1966

Two animal mechanical banks, a dog and a bear, each made by the same concern, H.L. Judd Company of Wallingford, Conn., are our choice as Nos. 141 and 142 in the numerical classification. These are what we might call "simple action" banks, as were most of those manufactured by Judd. They produced a nice line of good banks over a period of years, but none were particularly outstanding or highly animated. Unfortunately, this simplicity of construction and mechanism made a number of their banks prime targets for recasting, including the two under present discussion. Actually original specimens of the Bull Dog Standing or the Bear And Tree Stump are not plentiful or easy to come by. This has become increasingly so as the years have passed since mechanical banks first became collectors items. The recasts that have been made of the various Judd banks can be recognized as such, and for further detail on this situation please refer to the April, 1963, article in HOBBIES on the Bucking Mule Bank. This was the first of the Judd banks to be covered in the series of articles.

The general line of Judd banks were made with good detail in their casting. Hair lines, for example, were well done with fine definition, and both the Bull Dog Standing and Bear And Tree Stump are representative of this. Their banks were usually painted in one of a number of basic colors. Judd listed these colors as Ebony or Ebonized, Bronzed, Copper Bronze, Maroon, Gilded, and Dark Antique Finish. Thus none of their banks are particularly colorful, although a touch of red and yellow was used on the Bucking Mule and several others. In some cases certain of their banks were painted in combinations of two of their basic colors. The various basic colors, by the way, were in a japanned type finish. With the possible exception of the Mosque Bank, all other Judd production banks were comparatively small in size and only small coins—pennies, dimes and nickels—could be used in their operation. Most of their banks were made in two half-sections with no coin traps, making it necessary to take the respective bank apart in order to remove accumulated coins.

In spite of the fact that this is only the second time Judd banks have appeared in this series of articles to date, they, as a mechanical bank manufacturer, are among the top ten companies who made mechanical banks in the United States. They were quite active in this field during their period.

The Bull Dog Standing shown, Fig. 1, is a fine original specimen with the ebony or ebonized type finish. The only other color on this bank are the two white eyes of the dog. The operation of the bank is simplicity itself. A coin is placed on the dog's tongue and his tail is then lifted. This causes the tongue to recede into the dog's mouth and the coin drops from there inside the bank. The tongue in receding tilts to the side as it goes inside the dog and the coin slides therefrom. The weight of the tail, when released, returns the tongue to the position as shown in the picture. A fine illustration of this bank appears in the 1887 catalog of C.F. Rice, Chicago, Ill. They priced it at 20c each.

The Bear And Tree Stump is pictured in Figure 2 and it also is a fine original specimen with the ebony or ebonized type paint. The only other color is the red tongue of the bear. To operate the bank a coin is placed on the tongue of the bear and a lever in his back is then depressed. This causes the tongue to lift up and the coin slides on inside the body of the bear. The tongue returns by

its own weight to the position shown in the picture. A fine illustration of this bank also appears in the same 1887 Rice catalog and it was priced at 25c each.

In closing it bears mention that most of the Judd banks have more appeal to the advanced collector rather than the beginner. They are not spectacular nor colorful and action is limited. This, however, does not detract from their being desirable additions to a collection.

World's Fair Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1966

The World's Fair Bank, our choice as No. 143 in the numerical classification, is a mechanical bank that we could say has a lot going for it. In the first place it represents an important event in our history, the discovery of America by Columbus. Along with this it commemorates an exhibition in honor of Columbus, the Worlds Columbian Exposition held in Chicago, Ill. Further the bank was designed by Charles A. Bailey, the greatest of all mechanical bank designers. Then it is a surprise type of bank in that there is nothing obvious about the action that takes place. These factors along with its ornate decorations, attractive appearance, and excellent action make the World's Fair Bank add up to quite a desirable animated toy savings device. Another point of interest, it is one of only three known mechanical banks that utilize an Indian as part of the subject matter. The other two are Chief Big Moon (HOBBIES, March, 1965) and the Indian and Bear.

The World's Fair Bank was patented October 10, 1893 by Charles A. Bailey of Cromwell, Conn., and assigned by him to the J. & E. Stevens Company of the same place. The bank as made by Stevens closely follows the four diagrams which are part of the patent papers. The bank pictured was made prior to the date of the issue of the patent and the terminology "Pat. Apld. For" appears on this bank under the word "World's." It was first made in this fashion with the name thereon. Then for some years, after the World's Columbian Exposition was over, it was made without the name. Thus, while the bank is generally known as the World's Fair Bank, it is also often called Columbus And The Indian. Either name is appropriate since it was made with and without a name, and while the writer prefers the type with the name, actually one or the other is of about equal value. Stevens in their catalogs and advertising cards of the period simply called it the Columbus Bank.

The bank shown is in fine complete, original condition. It is painted simply but effectively as follows: The overall bank is gold including the figure of Columbus. A large flower by his left foot and the operating lever in the tree stump (upon which Columbus is seated) are in silver. The log in front of Columbus has a leafy vine and berry representation on it, and this is in silver. The figure of the Indian has bronze color legs, arms, face and neck. His clothing, headdress and peace pipe are silver. The inside of the log (which covers the Indian as in Figure 1) and the decorated section inside the bank, into which the Indian fits, are a tinted green silver color. The name World's Fair Bank is highlighted in silver. The perforated base plate is quite decorative with the name "Columbus" in large letters curved across its length. The entire plate is painted brown. As can be seen in both Figures 1 and 2, the base has a fine embossed representation of a buffalo hunt with the Indian on horseback running down the buffalo. On the other side of the base there is considerable floral, leaf and vine work surrounding the center section. In relief in this section is a good representation of Columbus' ship, the Santa Maria. So one can readily judge from the picture plus the description that this is a very ornately detailed toy savings device.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the provided slot in front of the feet of Columbus (Figure

1). It stays in place resting against the end of the log. The lever is then pressed down. The log snaps up and back as the figure of the Indian rises to the position as shown in Figure 2. Columbus lifts his right arm in greeting as the Indian offers him the peace pipe. The coin meantime slides down a slot-like chute into the bank. On releasing the lever Columbus lowers his right arm. The log with the Indian must be pressed down by hand for further operation. The bank then appears as in Figure 1 ready for another coin. Coins are removed by means of the conventional round Stevens trap in the base plate.

The World's Fair Bank is a sturdy well made mechanical bank. However, over the years, of the number of these banks seen by the writer, most of them have been broken. This is rather strange, and in most cases the breakage had to do with the figure of Columbus. The only logical explanation would seem to be that for some reason the World's Fair Bank was subject to rougher treatment than most.

In closing, a point of kindred interest has to do with a cast iron bell ringing toy. In the period of the World's Fair Bank, Bailey designed the Landing of Columbus bell toy. This was also made by Stevens and depicted Columbus in his ship along with some of the crew.

The Three Musical Savings Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1966

Not one, but three different type Musical Savings Banks, are known to exist. All three operate on the same principle—the insertion of a coin starts a musical mechanism to play. Other than this and having the same name, the three banks are quite unlike, particularly appearance-wise. For classification purposes we have placed the banks in the following order—"Musical Savings Bank," "You pay—I play" easel or picture frame type, Figure 1, is No. 144; "The Musical Savings Bank" upright music box type, Figure 2, is No. 145; "Musical Savings Bank" "You pay—I play" house or building type, Figure 3, is No. 146.

Taking the banks in their numerical order we will first consider No. 144, Figure 1. L.C. Hegarty is the owner of this fine, completely original, Musical Savings Bank. It is made of wood, mainly walnut, with the frame front in a lighter color, like a light mahogany. As can be seen in the picture, ornate carved scrollwork is at the top and bottom of the frame along with a small amount on each side. The name, wording and center design work on the front wood panel are indented or stamped into the wood in gold. The locking key is shown inserted on the side of the bank and the entire back opens for removal of coins.

An original old catalog circa 1885 pictures and describes the Musical Savings Bank for sale. The catalog was issued by John F. Stratton & Company, Importers, 49 Maiden Lane, New York, and Lipsig, Saxony. The text of the ad for the bank is as follows:

Musical Savings Bank

Playing 2 Airs

#1876 each \$7.50

A mantel-piece ornament, beautifully carved. On the front are the words "Musical Savings Bank" and the brief statement "You Pay—I Play."

"There is in the top a hole large enough to admit small coins, and every time a piece of money is dropped in the box it plays one air.

This is entirely new this season, being made for us expressly from specifications of our own.

No. 145, Figure 2, is also in fine complete original condition and is owned by Leon Perelman.

The name "The Musical Savings Bank" appears on the ornate brass plate on the front base as shown in the picture. This plate also tells the story as to the manufacturer as the name "Regina" and "Trade Mark" is inscribed thereon. This bank, like other Regina music boxes, is a well made item and the photo herewith well illustrates its good sturdy construction. Mr. Perelman has a Montgomery Ward Catalog #67, Summer of 1900, which pictures and describes the "Regina Musical Boxes." Text is as follows:

"The Regina is an automatic or self-playing musical instrument of American manufacture, and is not only far superior to the old style Swiss boxes, but everything considered, is the best music box made. Interchangeable metallic tune sheets or discs (one tune on each sheet) circular in shape, unlimited in number, are used instead of the old style cylinder.

The mechanism is driven by a strong spring motor, wound with detachable outside crank, and is so simple that it is not liable to get out of order. All working parts, like the tune sheet, are interchangeable, and in case any part is broken a new duplicate can be supplied quickly at a reasonable expense, and be replaced by any skilled mechanic.

The cases are either oak or mahogany, of attractive design and finely finished.

The tune sheets are made of steel, material and workmanship are the best and with proper care will last a lifetime."

This bank, by the way, is just about the largest in size of all the known mechanical banks being 17" high x 12" wide. For the record, some may say the Ferris Wheel occupies this position, but this is not the case as it isn't an authentic mechanical bank. It is simply a toy that has been converted into a bank. As a matter of fact the conversion of the Columbian Ferris Wheel into a savings device is still being done to date, and it does seem a shame to ruin a fine original toy in this fashion.

No. 146, Figure 3, is a well made wood bank in walnut with interesting carving of a bird and nest with eggs (note photo). The bank pictured is in fine original condition and is in the collection of Mrs. Mary Gerken. The name "Musical Savings Bank" and wording "You pay—I play" are stamped in gold on two pieces of leather and fit into the provided sections on the bank as shown. The bank operates the same as the two previously described—a coin, dropped in the chimney slot in the roof in this case, starts the musical mechanism to play. Dates, manufacturer, and so on concerning this bank are unknown to the best of the writer's knowledge. However, one pertinent piece of evidence is of importance. While the lettering of the names are not alike, please note Figure 1 and Figure 3 that the wording "You pay—I play" is identical. This is more than a coincidence and it is entirely possible that both banks were turned out by the same concern and in the same approximate time period.

Teddy and the Bear Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1966

A mechanical bank that has the unique distinction of being the only one to represent a former President of the United States is our choice as No. 147 in the numerical classification. Theodore Roosevelt, popularly known as Teddy, was an adventurer of the first order and a flamboyant controversial figure in his time. It is quite appropriate that an animated toy savings device, Teddy And The Bear, was made in representation of his hunting abilities. And, of course, the use of a bear on the bank at the time fit completely with the popular toy Teddy Bear which was practically a must for children during its period of wide popularity. The bank, in addition to its unique representation of a President, has a number of other very desirable features. For example, it is a

surprise type bank, the bear does not show until the bank is operated. It was designed by Bailey and is an outstanding example of his clever touch for designing mechanical banks. It is a very attractive, well made item and must be considered to be one of the most desirable of the mechanicals.

Teddy And The Bear was patented by Charles A. Bailey of Cromwell, Conn., February 19, 1907, and assigned by him to the National Novelty Corporation of Westfield, N.Y., a corporation of New Jersey. The J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., were the manufacturers of the bank. The patent papers in the case of this bank have a degree of interest. There are a total of six drawings that accompany the text, and the bank as produced by Stevens is practically identical to these drawings. However, there is one point of complete difference operation-wise between the text and the way the bank was made by Stevens. Following are two quotes from the text:

"A further object of the invention is to provide a bank in which two or more movable figures are so arranged as to be operated in successive order, or only the first may be set into motion as desired."

"If the operator wishes to expose the head of the bear the trigger (operating lever), after releasing the sear (firing gun mechanism) is further depressed allowing a spring to elevate the head of the bear."

This means that Bailey's original intent was that the gun shot the coin into the bank first and then second the bear's head protruded from the tree stump. The bank operates exactly opposite to this. The bear's head comes up first, then the gun fires. As a matter of fact, if one wishes to do so the bank can be operated so that only the bear's head comes out of the stump.

The bank shown is in fine original condition and colors of parts are as follows: The base is green with bronze highlighting and a brown stone-like representation thereon. The lettering of the name is in silver. The tree stump is dark brown streaked with gold, and the coin slot area, as well as two other sections, are in yellow. The top movable cover of the stump is leaf-like in green and silver. The bear's head is a reddish brown with a red mouth and nostrils and white teeth and eyes. Teddy wears black shoes with green puttees having gold buttons. His breeches, jacket and hat are tan and his shirt is blue. The gun is silver with a brown stock. He has flesh color hands and face with red lower lip, brown mustache and gold glasses. All this adds up to an attractive, colorful bank.

The bank is pictured after the action has taken place. To operate Teddy And The Bear from the position shown, the bear's head is pushed down into the stump and the cover placed thereon. The piece along the top of the gun barrel that shoots the coin into the bank is pushed back along the barrel until it snaps into position. At the same time the head lowers as though taking aim. A coin is then placed on the gun barrel. The lever located between Teddy's legs is pressed forward all the way. When done in this fashion all parts work together. The coin is shot forward into the stump and Teddy snaps his head back as though looking at the bear whose head springs from the top of the tree trunk. If one desires noise to accompany the action, there is a provided section in the gun for exploding caps.

In closing it bears mention, as the writer has stated before, that some of the best and most interesting mechanical banks are those that are considered by collectors to be more or less common. Teddy And The Bear is an excellent example of this type of bank. It was a fine salable item to begin with and made over a period of years. Thus quantities were produced and logically numbers survived. In the accepted terminology of "common," the bank is not that readily available an item but specimens turn up now and then and new or less advanced collectors of today still have a good chance of finding a reasonably good specimen.

Advertising Cards

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1966

Catalogs and advertising cards were two mediums used by manufacturers, distributors, jobbers and retail stores to promote the sale of mechanical banks. During the height of the popular period of mechanical banks, say from 1880 to 1910, many catalogs were issued which pictured and listed the interesting animated toy savings devices for sale. Please understand there were catalogs of this nature prior to 1880 and after 1910, but the 30 year period mentioned is undoubtedly the most active. These catalogs today are quite desirable to collectors of mechanical banks and are a kindred hobby. They have become increasingly difficult to find and paper material of this type has never been easy to come by. Particularly difficult and the most desirable are those catalogs issued by the manufacturers of mechanical banks.

Along with the catalogs and of similar nature are the advertising cards, sometimes referred to as flyers or fliers. These were often sent through the mail along with letters, other material, or invoices. They were also given out by hand by drummers and other means of distribution. In the strict terminology they were not all cards, as many were simply printed on paper in blue, brown, black, and other color ink. Numbers of the cards were lithographed in brilliant colors and are most attractive. In many ways, today and for some years past, the mechanical bank advertising cards are considerably harder to come by than the old catalogs. This is understandable as catalogs, particularly those issued by stores, fashion houses such as Ehrichs', and so on were kept as reference for years since they showed numbers of items other than toy banks. An advertising card showing a mechanical bank was definitely a disposable item unless now and then a brightly colored one found its way into a scrap book. And this, by the way, is where some do turn up.

More or less advanced collectors of mechanical banks are familiar with the advertising cards and in most cases have some in limited numbers showing different banks. There are many less advanced collectors, however, who are not familiar with the cards, and for their enlightenment, as well as others, we are picturing herewith several original J. & E. Stevens Company advertising cards. They are in fine original condition and those shown are self-explanatory. In size the cards are approximately 3½" x 5".

Indian and Bear Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1966

A mechanical bank with a very fine representation of an Indian is our choice as No. 148 in the numerical classification. This is the Indian And Bear Bank, one of the three known mechanicals that have an Indian as part of their subject matter. The other two are Chief Big Moon (HOBBIES, March, 1965) and the World's Fair Bank (HOBBIES, April, 1966). As can be seen in the photo, Figure 1, the Indian is exceptionally well detailed with a handsome set of feathers down his back, tomahawk in his belt, buckskin trousers, feather headdress, and so on. It bears mention at this point that when one of these banks turns up the back feathers are more often missing than not. There are two reasons for this — they are not too securely fastened to begin with, and they are rather fragile and subject to easy breakage.

Patent papers may exist on the Indian And Bear, but so far the writer has been unsuccessful in locating them. On the underbase of the bank pictured there appears in large block letters the wording 'Pat. Pend'g.', but this is of no help other than the possibility that a patent was granted.

There is every likelihood the Indian And Bear was designed by Charles A. Bailey, although we did not include it among his banks in the article titled "Bailey's Banks" (HOBBIES, February, 1963). The bank was made by J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., and was one of their good sellers and popular for a number of years.

The bank pictured, Figure 1, is completely original and in fine condition. The bright attractive colors are as follows: The base is green with a dark brown tree stump. The Indian wears a red jacket with yellow fringe down the sleeves. He has a string of white animal teeth around his neck and yellow, blue and white feathers in his headdress and down his back. A loop in brown hangs from his right arm, the gun is black, and his moccasins are brown. The tomahawk in his brown belt has a gold hatchet head and brown handle. He wears tan buckskin trousers with yellow fringe down the side. The bear is an all over light brown with red mouth and white teeth and eyes. His claws are black and a green trailing vine up the right side of the bear completes the coloring.

The bank as shown in Figure 1 is ready for action. The gun mechanism has been set and the coin placed on top of the barrel. The lever on the base between the legs of the Indian is then pressed. The gun fires shooting the coin into the bear. The Indian raises his head and the bear opens his mouth. On releasing the lever the bear closes his mouth. The gun must be reset for further operation.

Now please refer to Figure 2 and what the writer hopes will prove to be a pleasant surprise to a number of readers of these articles. Pictured is an original advertising card or flyer of the Indian And Bear Bank. Last month's article, July, covered advertising cards in detail. In any event, some years ago the writer was fortunate enough to obtain from Mr. Frisbee of the J. & E. Stevens Company a limited number of original Indian And Bear cards. His good fortune will now be shared with 20 HOBBIES readers. The first 20 letters received by the writer will be given one each of these original cards.

All letters must be postmarked on or before July 30, 1966, and accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. Letters postmarked after July 30th, will not be eligible. Send to F.H. Griffith, P.O. Box 10644, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235.

New Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1966

The designer, or possibly the manufacturer, of the mechanical bank which is our choice as No. 149 in the numerical classification most likely felt that the name 'New' would best describe what was felt to be a different or new type mechanical bank. The writer has often pondered as to why this name was chosen and this would seem to be the only logical explanation. After all, Guard Bank or Watchman Bank, in either case, would be a much more appropriate or fitting name. Be that as it may, the New Bank is a very attractive building type savings device, and while there is not much action involved, it is completely appropriate as to the idea of protecting ones savings.

The New Bank is more or less a companion piece to the U.S. Bank (HOBBIES, January, 1958). The buildings are similar in appearance, the paint is the same type done in the same fashion, and the same brass metal stamping of the watchman or policeman is in the doorway of each. At the same time of writing the article on the U.S. Bank the writer had no information whatsoever as to the background of either bank. Since then he has been able to shed some light on the situation. There is a still bank known as the Metropolitan Bank, and this utilizes the same brass stamped figure as the U.S. and New Banks. The Metropolitan fortunately was covered by a design patent

and there is no question but that all three were designed by the same individual. The design patent was issued to Anthony M. Smith of Brooklyn, New York, January 23, 1872. This covered a design for a toy safe wherein the watchman (this terminology for the brass figure was used in the original patent text) stood in a niche beside the safe door. He did not move and the patent was for a still bank. This fact is brought out since a few Metropolitan Banks have been converted to mechanicals in somewhat recent times, and, of course, these are simply fakes. The Metropolitan is a very nice still bank as such, and in its original state has a certain value. Why anyone would want to fake it into a mechanical seems somewhat beyond reason. It bears mention that in the altered version the figure moves slightly forward when the door of the safe is opened.

The New Bank shown is in fine original condition and painted as follows: The overall building is green with the inside of the bottom base section in dark blue. Brown edging is around the square foundation section. The front windows are red, as is the edging of the doorway and the sections which contain the name. The top and bottom of the door and windows are done in white, as is the name 'New Bank'. The top cup-shaped part of the roof is black, the dome is red with a black line around the bottom, and then comes a section in blue. Below this is roofing in white, then a green band, and finally another roof section in red. The figure is a gold color and he is fastened to an inside section painted in blue. The operating lever with a red hand completes the coloring of a very bright, attractive bank.

The operation of the New Bank could hardly be more simple or appropriate. A lever is pressed to the operator's left and in so doing the figure moves to the side and a coin slot appears in the open doorway. A coin is then deposited and on releasing the lever the figure snaps back into place as though guarding the deposit.

In closing, so that the writer does not receive letters from some individuals defending what they think to be a mechanical Metropolitan Bank, let this be said for the record. The writer knows who, when and where some Metropolitan Banks were converted to mechanicals. It is very obvious that threaded parts are not original and to date the writer has never seen a Metropolitan Bank in its complete original state in other than a still bank. It is extremely unlikely that it was ever originally made otherwise.

The Indian and Bear Card

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1966

Where to start? How does one begin to tell about an interesting experience, because that's what the advertising cards give away, or call it what you will, turned out to be. The response, for example, far exceeded any thought the writer had in this area. He was swamped with mail in the matter of a few days. In a way this is great, but then in another way there will be quite a few disappointed people around since 20 cards were allocated on a "first 20 request" basis.

Some of the letters were of considerable interest and some were strange. It's odd how certain people will put their own interpretation into something they have read that is quite specific and clear. For example, a number of letters received did not contain return envelopes, and other requests were simply on a postcard. In either case, these were what you might call disqualified. In one case there was only an envelope—nothing else, no mention of the card or anything.

Among the interesting letters was one from a man, whose request unfortunately arrived too late. He went into detail as to wanting a card for his collection of advertising cards. However, he was thoughtful enough to explain that individuals interested in mechanical banks should come first, and

if their requests outnumbered the 20 then he would rather they be favored. This really appealed to the writer as an unselfish approach to a hobby.

We go from this to another extreme where there were letters requesting two cards, and while the intentions here were probably well meant, there was no way to comply with a request of this nature.

The writer was quite surprised and rather pleased with the overall replies to his offer. Many letters referred to the Mechanical Bank articles and how they were read and appreciated, and he certainly wants to thank all those who were thoughtful in writing in this manner. So please let this "thank you" apply in each case as the writer cannot answer all the mail received in this particular circumstance.

In answer to numbers of requests in these letters, the writer cannot supply back copies of the Mechanical Bank articles from the early 1950's on. To many others who ask as to publishing the articles in a book form—this has been given some consideration and time will tell. Now to those who inquired about a new edition of the Mechanical Bank Booklet. This is now in process and should be ready in a month or so. Due to increased costs, the price per copy will be a little higher than the original copyrighted in 1956. There will be numerous additions to the listing of banks and other changes right up to date. Accuracy as far as possible and the general form of the original booklet will be maintained. Anyone wishing to reserve a copy ahead of time may do so by sending a remittance of \$3 to the writer at the address shown in his various want ads in HOBBIES.

Now to the list of those who received one each of the original Indian and Bear advertising cards:

James Riley, Battle Creek, Mich.
Charles G. King, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Robert W. Gabler, Chambersburg, Pa.
W.W. Tudor, Chicago, Ill.
Marvin D. Houghton, Arlington, Va.
Harry Knapp, Orlando, Fla.
Michael A. Santell, Los Angeles, Calif.
Dr. Ralph F. Merkle, Allentown, Pa.
Wilmot R. Craig, Rochester, N.Y.
Miss Janet E. Masteller, Columbus, Ohio.
S.R. Mahan, West Chester, Pa.
Charles B. Follert, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Vernon V. Voris, Seattle, Wash.
J.R. Jenista, Caldwell, Kans.
Mrs. Roger F. Summ, Cromwell, Conn.
Larry E. Mowrey, Ephrata, Pa.
Hubert B. Whiting, Wakefield, Mass.
Harold W. Miller, Vinton, Iowa.
David K. Bausch, Allentown, Pa.
Elmer A. Cottrell, Round Rock, Tex.

In closing, the writer certainly hopes the recipients are pleased, and he only wishes he had enough to go around to all who replied to his offer.

Calumet Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1966

An interesting little mechanical bank with an exceptionally unusual background is our choice as No. 150 in the numerical classification. With the exception of patent papers, which was all he had to go on for years, the writer knew very little about the Calumet Bank until recently. Then Ann and Ed Rost of St. Louis, Mo., found the bank pictured, and we now know considerably more about it. A unique feature of the Calumet, in addition to its being a production bank, is the fact that it is distinctly an advertising item. It was either given away or distributed as a premium in some fashion. Very few of the mechanicals fall into this category. The Weeden's Plantation Darky Savings Bank, for example, in addition to being sold through regular channels was given as a premium for selling a certain number of subscriptions to the Youth's Companion. The Pump And Bucket was also used as an advertising item by at least one concern, Gusky's of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The exclusively advertising angle of the Calumet Bank very definitely adds to its interest.

From about 1898 to 1925 the Calumet Baking Powder Company was in business under this name in Chicago, Ill. They had considerable difficulty with competitors in using the name "Calumet." Calumet is an Indian word and it means "pipe of peace." This name was used by the Baking Powder Company in a broad sense to mean peace between housewife and grocer, and peace between grocer and manufacturer. The word Calumet was widely advertised and became a household name, along with the "Calumet Kid" shown in the picture. The Indian head, also shown in the picture, was their Trade Mark, and this was well known. In any event, due to certain business angles, on July 1, 1925, the Company changed their name to the Calumet Distributing Company.

Systems, a magazine of business, in its June, 1922 issue, goes into some detail about the Calumet Kid and his prominence as a national figure. At the time there were even movies made about the Kid.

The Calumet Bank was patented as an advertising novelty September 16, 1924, with the papers and drawings filed July 17, 1922. The patent was issued to Edward E. Barnes of Chicago, Ill., assignor to Calumet Baking Powder Company of Chicago, a corporation of Illinois. Two paragraphs from the text of the patent papers are of interest:

"My invention relates to toy banks of the kind designed for use more particularly as advertising novelties, one that is designed to attract attention by means of an image which is so positioned with respect to the coin receptacle of the bank that each time a coin is dropped into the receptacle the image will be actuated by the coin contacting with a portion of the body thereof extended into the receptacle, which causes the image to move.

"A further object of my invention is to provide a construction of this kind which is cheap to manufacture and which is arranged to provide a suitable surface for presenting advertising matter of any kind which will at all times be displayed in front of the moving image."

The Calumet Bank pictured is in fine original condition including the paper wrapper or label around the can receptacle. The size of the can approximates the ones used today to hold concentrated frozen orange juice. Colors of the bank are as follows: The paper surrounding the receptacle is an all over orange red with all printing in blue. The name "Calumet Baking Powder" is outlined or shaded in white. There is various outlining in red such as the Indian Trade Mark in the center. The front of the bank as to the name and so on is self explanatory as per the picture. On the back appears wording such as "Save Time and Money by using Calumet Baking Powder" – "You Save—when you buy it, when you use it, materials it is used with" – "Its saving qualities explain its popularity." The bust of the Calumet Kid has a black shirt with the wording "Thank You" in white. He wears a blue bow-tie with white polka dots. His face is flesh color with tinted pink rosy cheeks. Blue eyes, red tongue and black hair complete the coloring.

To operate the bank a coin is dropped into the provided slot and this causes the Kid to rock back

and forth. The weight of the coin causes the action and this, as with a number of the other mechanicals, is a desirable feature. There is no provision for removing coins from the bank, and this undoubtedly contributes to its scarcity. Most were probably destroyed in getting the coins out of the bank.

In closing, the circumstances about Mr. & Mrs. Rost finding the bank are of interest. They were doing an antique show in Iowa where there was a display of old advertising items. The bank was in this display and the Rosts purchased it from the original owner who had it as a child in Fremont, Nebr.

Santa Claus Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1966

We can say with complete confidence that it would be impossible to select a more appropriate mechanical bank for the 1966 Christmas issue than Santa Claus as pictured on the cover. Santa standing by the chimney conveys the full old fashioned tradition of gifts and toys to come for girls and boys. So with pleasant timing the Santa Claus Bank, a fine representation of the traditional Santa figure, is our choice as No. 151 in the numerical classification.

Before going into details concerning the Santa Claus mechanical bank, it bears mention that collecting various representations of Santa Claus is quite a hobby in itself. In the toy line, for example, there is the classic cast iron sleigh with Santa driving two reindeer. There are also several different type Santa still banks which are quite attractive. There is a fine Ives walking figure Santa Claus. This winds up, the mechanism is inside the figure, and it is made of wood, metal and cloth clothing. The writer even has an old cast iron ashtray which is the face of Santa Claus. There is another type toy cast iron Santa sleigh where he drives one reindeer, and a tin Santa still bank, and so on.

The Santa Claus Bank was patented October 15, 1889 by Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams of Buffalo, N.Y., with Adams the assignor to Walter J. Shepard. The patent was issued as a design for a toy savings bank and the drawing included in the papers is practically identical to the production bank. As to the manufacturer, there is some question between the Shepard Hardware Company, Buffalo, N.Y. or the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. It has been attributed to Stevens in spite of the Shepard patent. This is based on the fact that Shepard patents were assigned to the Stevens Company and the Speaking Dog for example, was first made by Shepard and then later on by Stevens. As a matter of fact, the writer has the original papers covering assignments of patents and in two cases at least, the Speaking Dog and the Stump Speaker were assigned by Shepard to the Stevens Company, June 4, 1894. However, as to Santa Claus, the writer has never seen a Stevens Catalog or anything else that would indicate they made the bank at any time. The bank pictured has the identical type distinctive paint work done by Shepard. The eyes, for example, have the same detail as on Uncle Sam, which was only made by Shepard. Of course, it isn't earth shaking to pin it down definitely as the Santa Claus was made by either of the two companies, or each at different periods. The writer leans to its being an exclusive Shepard Hardware Company product.

The Santa Claus shown (cover) is in complete original condition with very good paint. Santa wears a gray coat and hat flecked all over with white to simulate snow. The coat down the front and around the bottom is brown and the inside of his hat, exposed around his face, is red. His hands and face are pink and he has white eyebrows, blue eyes, and a fine white beard. The basket-like bag on

his back is yellow with a black band at the top. Gold color toys, a boat, horn, doll, wheelbarrow, rocking horse, sword, high chair, and so on, are on a red background in the top of the bag. He wears black boots and stands on a gray-green base. The name "Santa Claus" in gold appears by the toes of his boots. The red chimney with white outlining of the bricks to simulate mortar completes the coloring of the bank.

The operation of the bank is simple but effective. As shown in the picture (see cover), a coin is first placed in the raised right hand of Santa. A lever located to the rear of his right foot is then pressed and Santa lowers his right hand dropping the coin into the chimney.

The Santa Claus Bank is a very fine, attractive item and, of course, particularly appropriate at Christmas time. In closing, it bears mention that the bank pictured has the wording "Pat. Appd. For" on the underside of the base. This, generally speaking, means that this bank or any bank with this terminology was manufactured before the patent date. However, it does not necessarily follow that immediate action was taken on the date a patent was issued to inscribe the date on any given bank. Some mechanical banks were not made for a long period of time and never got beyond using "Pat. Appd. For" on all examples produced. However, when given examples of a specific bank are known to exist with some inscribed "Pat. Appd. For" and others with a patent date thereon, we know that those without the date are the earlier types and usually produced before and not long after the date of patent.

SOME FINE CAST IRON TOYS (See Cover)

Our cover this month of December, 1966, features along with Santa Claus some excellent examples of very desirable cast iron toys. The writer has received many, many requests to do articles on cast iron toys and here at long last are some of the desirable types.

A quite rare toy is the Brownie Patrol evolved from the original creation of Palmer Cox whose Brownies swept the country with their popularity in the 1880's and '90's. The toy is attributed to Wilkins Toy Company of Keene, N.H., circa 1890. It has the Policeman, the Dude, the Chinaman, and so on riding in the patrol. It is a well detailed, colorful, rather small toy and very desirable.

The Spider Phaeton is a rare type cast iron horse drawn toy pleasure vehicle. The coachman sits up in back with folded arms while the lady drives. This fine toy was made by Kenton Hardware Mfg. Co. of Kenton, Ohio, circa 1903.

The Coach is an excellent example of fine detail in the horse drawn pleasure type of cast iron toy. It was made by Wilkins Toy Company, circa 1892, and undoubtedly is the best type coach in its carriage category ever produced. When pulled along the horses move rocking up and down, and the doors are hinged for opening and closing.

The Monkey On Tricycle bell ringer, is a product of the J. & E. Stevens Company. It was patented in 1883 and appears in a number of their catalogs of the period. When pulled along, the Monkey moves its legs as though riding the tricycle and the bell rings by motivation of the rear wheels. It is painted in bright appropriate colors.

Another fine bell toy shown is the Ding Dong Bell made by Gong Bell Mfg. Co. of East Hampton, Conn. It appears in their L 1 Catalog for the years 1903 and 1904. When the toy is pulled the bell is caused to swing back and forth and ring merrily along.

Last, but by far not least, is the great Kenton Steamer Fire Engine. It is probably the finest pumper type toy fire engine ever made. The detail is unusually well done and it is a very colorful large piece. Overall it measures 26½ inches long and the three realistic action horses are 11 inches long. It has been said by some that Ives made the finest cast iron toys of all times, but this simply isn't fact. Kenton, Hubley, Wilkins, Pratt & Letchworth, and several other concerns made cast iron toys that in numbers of cases surpass anything ever produced by Ives. Please understand this does

not imply that Ives did not make some excellent toys as they most certainly did do so. However, their general line, and understand we are speaking of cast iron toys, most certainly did not surpass everyone else's. The Kenton fire engine pictured on the cover was made by Kenton Hardware Company, circa 1915, and, by the way, if anyone notices that the word "Manufacturing" is left out of the company name this time, it is because the word was dropped from their name sometime after 1903.

Of noteworthy interest is the fact that the six cast iron toys as detailed here are all in fine original condition with no repairs and excellent paint. All figures, drivers and riders, are original.

The Fourth Musical Savings Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1967

It would seem safe to assume since mechanical banks have been collected for so many years now that no other mechanical bank was made using the name Musical Saving Bank when three different types are known to exist already (see HOBBIES, May, 1966).

Well this isn't the case, as there is another type, quite different from the other three, particularly appearancewise. This bank is all metal with the exception of the wood sounding base upon which the musical mechanism is mounted inside the bank. The Musical Saving Bank pictured is our choice as No. 152 in the numerical classification, although it should be numerically with the other three. There isn't much we can do about this, however, as it is not impossible that a fifth type exists, unknown to collectors today, which could turn up at any time. This is rather unlikely but it could happen, and that's why it's difficult to list or class banks in any permanent order. After all, a Coasting Bank or Japanese Ball Tosser is sure to turn up sooner or later, and when this happens the bank, in either case, should be ranked far up the list. This also applies where the rarity of a bank is concerned. For example, let's take the case of the Schley Bottling Up Cervera Bank. The first specimen of this bank turned up about 25 years ago, then to the best of the writer's knowledge, no others were found until the past year, and in the last year's time two others have been found! This is one of the many fascinating phases in collecting mechanical banks—you just never know what may show up next. The unpredictable and unknown factors involved are stimulating and maintain an interest level at all times—there is no point of near boredom or reaching a point where you can't go beyond. You might say it's almost impossible for any one person ever to own a complete collection of all known mechanical banks, but you can keep trying. And to sum this up, the purpose of the writer in the articles is to convey information on the individual mechanical banks, and in his booklet to grade them and so on in as permanent a fashion as possible. In other words, the numerical angle of the articles is not the important phase and it more or less bears out one of the writer's favorite expressions—"there is nothing so permanent as change."

The Musical Saving Bank pictured is from the collection of Hubert B. Whiting of Wakefield, Mass. Mr. Whiting, after reading the article on the three other Musical Saving Banks, was kind enough to advise the writer of the unusual specimen in his possession. It formerly belonged to a man named Bishop who has since passed on and so no information is available beyond that point as to where Mr. Bishop obtained the bank, and so on. Fortunately on the back of the bank in the metal stamping appears "Swiss Made," and across from that "Swiss Patent No. 102591." The Swiss Patent Offices were more than completely cooperative with the writer and furnished him with an original copy of the patent through the Bureau Federal De La Propriete Intellectuelle. The patent on the Musical Saving Bank was issued to Madam Alice Reuge Ste-Croix Vaud, Suisse, March 1,

1923. The text of the patent is in French and there is a page of drawings, Figure 1 through 5, depicting the method of operation. The text goes into detail as to the music only playing upon the insertion of a coin.

The bank pictured is in fine original condition. It is a rather sturdy tin stamping in the decorative form as shown. It is painted entirely in black with a silver color medallion showing the Amsterdam Rijks Museum. To the left and back of the top of the bank there is a coin slot with the word "Coin" along the slot. On the back of the bank there is a small clock-like key. This is first wound and then a coin is dropped into the slot. The music starts and plays two pieces, The Bells of Monastery and Rigoletto. It stops automatically after both pieces are played—ready for another coin. Coins are removed by means of a key lock in the bottom base, which is hinged and opens completely. The inside of the bank is well constructed with a chute for the coins to operate the lever, and the music mechanism is completely enclosed in a metal box so there is no interference when coins accumulate inside the bank. The metal box has the wooden sounding base as previously mentioned.

In closing, it bears mention that another specimen of this bank is now known to exist, and the medallion on the front is that of an English setter in the pointing position. This example also plays two pieces, however, they are Santa Lucia and Carmen Toreador. Other than the medallion and the musical renditions, this bank and the one belonging to Mr. Whiting are identical.

The Mary Roebling Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1967

We divert from our usual dissertation on old or antique mechanical banks this month to give recognition to a very unusual animated savings device of recent manufacture. The writer in his normal routine is not concerned with so-called modern mechanical banks which are being made today. There are some very clever ones such as the Haunted House, Rover, Fingers, and the Hole-In-One. These include operations by battery powered motors and wind-up. They undoubtedly in future years will become collector's items. However, there is no question, while of modern manufacture, the Mary Roebling Bank is and will increasingly become a desirable bank to collectors. There are reasons for this, of course, and they mainly surround the circumstances under which the bank was made.

To begin with, Mrs. Mary G. Roebling is Chairman of the Board of the Trenton Trust Company in Trenton, N.J., and in addition to being a very active busy woman she sets aside certain time to the avocation of collecting mechanical banks and has a deep interest in her collection. Sometime prior to 1963, the 75th anniversary of her bank the Trenton Trust, Mrs. Roebling came up with the idea of creating a mechanical bank to commemorate the occasion. She wanted the bank to have the characteristics of the old cast iron type and be made in the same fashion and material. This required a bit of ingenuity on her part, and to begin with she acquired the services of the well known sculptor, Anthony Greenwood of Philadelphia, Pa. He worked for some six months to develop the original idea and two working models were made. These at a later date completely and mysteriously disappeared.

It was decided by Mrs. Roebling to make a limited edition of 200 of the banks, each to be numbered. The Grey Iron Casting Company of Mt. Joy, Pa., made the bank from designs by J.E. Brubaker. The Mary Roebling-Trenton Trust mechanical bank was designed to symbolize the free enterprise system upon which our country's economy thrives — to commemorate 25 years during which Mrs. Roebling has served as President and Chairman of the Board of Trenton Trust—to

show the bank's location, significant in historic times, as well as today, where it is the highest building in Trenton.

As to the mechanical bank itself (see Picture 1), the base is simulated red cobblestone like long gone streets of old Trenton, where a historic battle for freedom was fought and won by our Revolutionary ancestors. On this base stands a scaled down replica of the Trenton Trust bank building painted cream with brown accents, each window and door of its 14 stories clearly defined. Atop the building is a large white and gold sign "Trenton Trust," much like the electric sign on the actual building. Seated on a gray office type chair is a figure representation of Mary Roebling dressed in a blue dress with white ruffled collar. Her hair is gold with highlighting and she holds in her lap a large gold key with the word "Security" inscribed thereon. The front panel of the base is white with "75th Anniversary" in gold. The rear panel in the same colors has the wording "Trenton Trust F.D.I.C." The bottom base plate contains the following information cast in raised letters: "Created for Mary Roebling by Anthony Greenwood – Sculptor; J.E. Brubaker – Designer; Grey Iron Casting Company – Founders; one of 200 Pieces, 'The Brotherhood For Survival of Free Enterprise' — M.G.R."

The bank operates as follows: A coin of any size, including a silver dollar, is first placed on the key as shown in Picture 1. The Trenton Trust sign on top of the building is then pressed down and it snaps into place (the bank is pictured with the sign up to better illustrate same). A lever, located to the back of the building, is then pressed down. Mrs. Roebling's right arm raises and moves forward causing the coin to slide from the key into the bank, Picture 2. At the same time her head turns toward the building and the sign atop the building springs into the position as shown. All parts except the sign return automatically to position on releasing the lever. The sign is again pushed down and the bank is ready for another coin.

As previously mentioned, each bank is numbered and, of course, Mrs. Roebling has No. 1. A limited number were presented by Mrs. Roebling to certain individuals on the occasion of a special event held by her to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Trenton Trust in 1963. Other well known outstanding possessors of the bank are General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Hon. James J. Saxon, Governor Richard Hughes, Brig. General David Sarnoff, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, Drew Pearson, Lawrence Litchfield, Jr., and many more.

The circumstances, reasons, and so on surrounding the production of the Mary Roebling Bank are quite unique. It is an authentically produced limited production item. As years go on there is no question as to its becoming an increasingly valuable desirable collector's item. The writer on the occasion of a recent visit with Mrs. Roebling spent a very interesting and entertaining Sunday afternoon with her in her town house in Trenton. During and after a fine luncheon we discussed her mechanical bank hobby and her banking business. Despite a demanding schedule, Mrs. Roebling finds time for her banks and other collections, including paintings, art work, and even to rare exquisite buttons. Needless to say, the writer was very pleased when on this occasion Mrs. Roebling presented one of her banks to him. She is to be complimented for creating a very unique bank — a modern day mechanical made despite many obstacles and problems of manufacture and made in the tradition and design of the treasured old mechanical banks. In closing it is of interest to note that Mrs. Roebling used Bank No. 1 as the centerpiece of the luncheon table.

Kick Inn Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1967

Mechanical banks made of wood with colored paper representations thereon are quite unusual and as a matter of fact only two are known to have been manufactured in this fashion. One, the Kick Inn Bank, is our choice as No. 153 in the numerical classification, and the second is the very rare Presto Savings Bank (HOBBIES, March, 1960). While these are the only known mechanical banks made this way, there were many other type toys made of paper covered wood. These included fire pumps, hook and ladders, trains, boats, carriages, and many, many types of games, including blocks. It's surprising that toys of this nature, many of which were made in the 1880's, have survived to the present time. While they certainly aren't plentiful, they do turn up now and then. This type toy, including the two mechanical banks, were and are, in the final analysis, in a rather fragile category and could not stand any degree of dampness or moisture with respect to the paper covering. Transversely, being made of wood, they had a certain sturdiness about them whereby some have survived through the years.

The Presto Savings Bank, as mentioned, is a very rare mechanical bank and an early item, having been made in the period of 1885. The Kick Inn Bank is a considerably later item, 1921, and not even remotely as hard to come by as the Presto. There is no comparison in this area between the two banks, and as matter of fact the Presto Savings Bank is a much more finely produced item. It is rather strange when one considers the span of years between the two banks and the fact no other types are known to have been made in paper covered wood during this long period of time.

The Kick Inn Bank was patented February 15, 1921 by Melville E. Stoltz of St. Louis, Mo. It was manufactured by the Presto Novelty Company, also of St. Louis. The writer is indebted to Arnold Stoltz of Beverly Hills, Calif., the son of Melville E. Stoltz, for background information concerning his father, the bank, and so on. His father started making toys when German imports were cut off by World War I, and one of his first was a toy theatre complete and with Cinderella in a break away pumpkin that became a coach. At the time of the Kick Inn Bank, while the original label states it was made by Presto Novelty Manufacturing, in reality this was a name used by his father when he actually had the Wilder Manufacturing Company of St. Louis make the bank. In other words, Wilder, who made other toys on their own, was the manufacturer for Presto Novelty. Mr. Melville Stoltz died in 1937 at the age of 81 and one newspaper referred to him as a "Pied Piper" since he always had a bunch of neighborhood children on his doorstep. He had been a pal of Diamond Jim Brady, manager for David Warfield, and press agent for Flo Ziegfeld, and while he had walked with the great in his day, his happiest times, according to his son, was to see a child's pleasure when playing with one of the toys he had produced.

The Kick Inn Bank shown is in excellent complete original condition and colors are as follows: The inn has a red chimney and a dark green roof. Front, back and sides of the inn are covered with paper showing light blue windows and stone block. The name "Kick Inn" appears in black under the peak of the roof in front. A red tin canopy is over the entrance way. The inn and mule are on a light green base. The mule is gray with red and white mouth effect. He has floppy leather ears and a hemp tail. A red tin operating lever is on the base between the mule and the inn. The underside of the base has four rather thick round red felt pads, one on each corner. Also on the underside a paper label gives directions for assembling the bank. This shows the name "Kick Inn" and underneath "Mechanical Toy Savings Bank," then appears the patent date and the manufacturer "Presto Novelty Mfg. Co."

The bank as pictured is ready for operation. A coin has been placed in the slot in the canopy and the rear legs of the mule set on the lever. When the lever is pressed the mule pivots on his front legs and his rear legs kick out and up. In so doing he kicks the canopy holding the coin. The canopy is hinged so that the coin is thrown into a coin slot in the inn over the canopy. The mule who ends up

more or less standing on his head is then reset by hand for further action and operation.

Frankly speaking, the Kick Inn Bank is a somewhat crude mechanical bank and has a certain almost primitive hand-made look about it, particularly as compared to the other mechanicals. There is no question, however, as to its being an authentic commercially produced item and it's a must to have in a collection. Its primitive or hand-made appearance does have a certain appeal, as for example note in the picture the way the wire springs are simply fastened to the front and rear legs and completely exposed. In any event, that's the way the bank was made and it makes an interesting addition to a collection.

Organ Bank, *Miniature*

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1967

The old time organ grinder and his monkey are brought to mind once again as we reach No. 154 in the numerical classification with our choice of the Organ Bank (Miniature) to occupy this position. To begin, there are four similar but different mechanical banks all with the name Organ Bank thereon. They are all covered by the same patents and made by the same company. First, and the rarest, is the one under discussion. Then comes the largest type organ with the boy and girl on top along with the monkey. Third is the same type and size with a dog and cat in place of the boy and girl. Fourth and last is the single monkey on top a medium size organ with the same action as the monkeys on the two larger type. There is a fifth type organ bank with the same subject matter but not related to this group of four, and this is the Little Jocko Musical Bank (HOBBIES, April, 1960). This bank plays music when the crank is turned, while the Organ Bank group of four all ring a bell or bells. Last of related subject matter are the Monkey Bank (which depicts the organ grinder with the organ and the monkey) and possibly, if one wants to include it in the category, the Organ Grinder And Performing Bear (HOBBIES, February, 1958).

The Organ Bank (Miniature) is covered by two patents and this information appears as follows, cast in raised letters on the underside of the base of the bank:

Pat May 31 81

Pat June 13 82

Above this appears the number '235' followed by four vertical dots. This had to do with the number and assembly of the bank. Both patents, May 31, 1881 and June 13, 1882, were issued to Louis Kyser and Alfred C. Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., and their concern, Kyser & Rex, manufactured the bank. The patent of May 31, 1881 covers a single monkey sitting atop a medium size organ with sound produced by means of pins on a shaft striking a musical fork. The patent of June 13, 1882 covers the large size organ with monkey and the cat and dog. This patent well defines the sound as produced by means of bells, rather than a musical fork, and this feature, along with others, were considered as important over the patent of 1881. While the four different type organ banks were produced under one or both patents, the writer has never seen any with the musical fork sound mechanism. All, to the best of his knowledge, utilized one, two or three bells in their musical sound effect.

The Organ Bank (Miniature) pictured is a fine condition, completely original specimen of this bank. It is one of the smallest of all the mechanical banks and its size can be well judged by comparison with the penny resting in the slot as shown. The paint is in practically mint condition with colors as follows: The organ is an overall brown with outlining of various sections in gold. The star on the front and the leaf-like design work underneath is in silver. The name Organ Bank

and the crank handle are in gold. The brown monkey wears a yellow jacket with red trim. He has white eyes with black pupils and a red mouth. His hat is blue with a red plume. A gold tray or plate in his right hand completes the coloring.

The operation of the bank is simple but effective. A coin is first placed as shown in the picture, then the crank is turned clockwise. The monkey revolves counter clockwise and pushes the coin with his tray or plate on into the slot where it drops inside the bank. As the crank is turned and the monkey revolves a bell rings inside the bank. So it is good appropriate action for the subject matter represented.

In closing, it bears mention that the action of the monkey on the Organ Bank (Miniature) is entirely different than those on the other three Organ Banks. In each case of the other three, the monkey tips his hat with his left arm and raises and lowers the coin tray with his right arm, which action, of course, is even more apropos to the subject matter. The Organ Bank (Miniature) is a desirable little bank to have in a collection and is rather difficult to find in comparable condition to the one pictured.

Correction:

Re Kick Inn Bank article (HOBBIES, March, 1967), the third paragraph should read "The Kick Inn Bank was patented February 15, 1921," not 1821.

Bureau Bank (Serrill Patent)
Freedmens Bureau Bank
Give Me A Penny Bank

PART I

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1967

There is a group of mechanical banks whose operation is based on the principle of a trap door effect, in that they all have in common a drawer with a tilting or false bottom. The majority of these banks are made of wood, however, there are several made of cast iron. The most interesting of this specific group are those made of wood, and these include the Bureau or Chest Bank in several types, the two different types of the Trick Savings Bank, Bureau Bank (Serrill Patent), Give Me A Penny Bank, and the Freedmens Bureau. Those in metal are the Chandlers Bank and the Presto Bank.

At present we are concerned with the three best of those made of wood, and these are Give Me A Penny Bank, Bureau (Serrill Patent), and the Freedmens Bureau. It is sort of a toss-up as to the numerical ranking of these three banks. There are those who prefer the Give Me A Penny with its interesting added action of the rising picture, then others would lean toward the Freedmens Bureau with its close alliance to the Freedman's Bank. Last, and certainly not least, is the Bureau (Serrill Patent) which has the distinction of being the earliest known patented, dated mechanical bank. This bank is our choice as No. 155 in the numerical classification, and in order, the Freedmens Bureau No. 156, and Give Me A Penny No. 157. Undoubtedly there will be individuals who will not agree with the order of the ranking of these three banks. However, it is not earth-shaking one way or the other as each is a very fine bank in itself and any one could be ahead of the other two with some justification in each case.

The Bureau (Serrill Patent) was patented February 16, 1869 by James Serrill of Philadelphia, Pa. So there will be no confusion as to the date of January 26, 1869 as shown on the bank, please note the patent itself states as follows: "Letters Patent #87,006 dated February 16, 1869; antedated

January 26, 1869." This bank then is the earliest known patented mechanical bank. (Hall's Excelsior usually placed in this position was patented December 21, 1869, a little over ten months later, since it was antedated December 7. Keep in mind, of course, that Hall's Excelsior is the earliest known patented cast iron mechanical bank.) Mr. Serrill, in the patent papers, refers to his toy money box as a bureau and specifies the name "The Magic Savings Bank." To the best of the writer's knowledge, however, this name was not used in connection with the bank when it was commercially produced, nor does it appear on the bank itself. It is interesting to note that Serrill's name is spelled in two different ways in the patent, Serrill and Serrell.

The bank shown, Figure 1 and Figure 2, is in fine original condition and is in the extensive collection of Leon Perelman of Philadelphia, Pa. He purchased the bank some years ago from an antique dealer in Sanatoga, Pa. Figure 1 pictures the bank with the workable top drawer in the closed position. The two lower drawers are representations and do not open. Figure 2 shows the top drawer open with part of the stenciled wording showing on the bottom of the drawer. This reads as follows: "Phil'a Pa Patented January 26-1869." Above this wording (the photographer was unable to focus this properly) appears "Jas. Serrill Patentee." The bank is finished like a piece of walnut or mahogany furniture, varnished and so on.

The operation of the bank is simple. The top drawer is pulled open and a coin is placed therein. The drawer is closed and upon reopening the coin has disappeared. This is caused by the tilting bottom of the top drawer. It is constructed in such fashion that the bottom of the drawer drops down at the back when it is in the closed position. This cannot be detected when the drawer is open since it immediately raises back up into normal position when the drawer is pulled forward. It's really very simple action but quite clever and rather puzzling to those who are not familiar with the operation.

It bears mention in concluding on the Bureau Bank (Serrill Patent) that the patent papers include coverage of a cloth bag-like effect for the inside of the bank, into which coins would drop after sliding from the drawer bottom. Although not stated in the patent, this could have had a possible deadening effect on the sound made by the coins dropping into the bank.

(To be continued in the June Issue)

Bureau Bank (Serrill Patent)

Freedmens Bureau Bank

Give Me A Penny Bank

PART II

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1967

The Freedmens Bureau, Figure 3, is also in fine original condition and was obtained by the writer through the good help of Ross Trump of Medina, Ohio. The operation and general setup of this bank is the same as the Bureau (Serrill Patent). While a commercially produced item, no dates are shown on the bank and it is doubtful it was ever patented. The wording on the bank as shown in the picture is of considerable interest and appears as follows: On the top of the bureau in rather large gold stenciled letters is the name "Freedmens Bureau." The letters form a curve and in the center of the name is a gold decoration. On the front, also stenciled in gold letters, the top drawer in curved fashion has "Now You See It;" the center drawer has a decoration with "&" in the center; and the bottom drawer "Now You Don't." This bank is a well made small size chest in walnut and finished appropriately in varnish and so on. The two lower drawers are representations and do not

operate. As to the age of the bank, it is reasonable to assume it was made in the approximate period of the Freedman's Bank, which would place it circa 1882. It could, however, be earlier than this.

The Give Me A Penny Bank is an exceptionally well made mechanical bank. It is in complete original fine condition and was obtained by the writer some years ago from the late Dave Hollander. It is not a bureau but does have the same type operating top drawer as the previous two banks. The bank as pictured in Figure 4 has the drawer open to receive the coin. When opened the drawer causes the picture of the monkey to rise into position as shown in the photo. In closing the drawer the picture lowers down inside the bank so the top is completely flush with the top of the bank. On the front of the bank under the drawer appears a fine representation of a lion's head.

The bank is nicely finished varnished walnut. The lion has black eyes and a red mouth. The monkey and the wording are stenciled on a plain unfinished light wood. The name "Give Me A Penny" is in black. The monkey is brown with a red jacket and blue trousers. He has a red protruding tongue, yellow tie and sleeve cuffs, and holds a black hat in his left hand. On the other side there is a rather ornate stencil in black and the large letter S is formed in the stencil. This bank has a key lock drawer in the lower back. This drawer is lined with a carpet-like material and the coins drop therein from the top front drawer.

In conclusion on the Give Me A Penny Bank, we are faced once again with a bank having no dates thereon, no background information to the best of the writer's knowledge, and no certainty as to the period in which it was made. There is no question as to its having considerable age or its being a commercially produced item. It is hoped that some future research will turn up definite information on the bank. There is the possibility, unlike the previous two banks made in the United States, that it is of English origin. This could account for the lack of background information, but this is only a guess.

The three banks pictured, Bureau Bank (Serrill Patent), Freedmens Bureau, and the Give Me A Penny Bank, are difficult to find items and quite rare. As of this writing, the number of fingers on one hand can account for all known specimens that exist in collections to date.

Elephant with Tusks on Wheels

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1967

Discovery of a heretofore unknown mechanical bank is always of great interest to all collectors of these desirable toy saving devices. The bank we have chosen as No. 158 in the numerical classification, Elephant With Tusks On Wheels, more or less comes into this category. The terminology "more or less" is used simply because the bank has apparently laid dormant and unnoticed in one of the pioneer collections for some years. The collection was that of Andrew Emerine of Fostoria, Ohio, and the writer had no recollection of seeing the bank in his collection in years past. There's no doubt, of course, that he simply overlooked it. In any event, Edward Mosler, Jr., purchased the Emerine collection in recent times and not too long thereafter the bank came into the writer's possession through the good help of Mr. Mosler.

The bank pictured is similar to, with marked differences, the Light Of Asia (HOBBIES, October, 1956) and the Jumbo Bank (HOBBIES, January, 1962). All three, in the writer's opinion, were undoubtedly made by the same concern. The differences are quite obvious when the Elephant With Tusks On Wheels is compared with the other two. There's no name on the bank for one thing and for another the elephant has tusks. The platform on which the elephant stands is entirely different and the four wheels are in slots in the platform itself. The wheels are not heart type, but rather a

conventional spoke type. They are smaller in diameter, necessarily so as to fit the slots. The blanket, while shaped like that on the Jumbo, has different edging and design work thereon.

The operation of the three banks is identical — a coin inserted in the back of each respective elephant causes the head to nod up and down. All three also share the desirable feature of being pull toys, as well as mechanical banks. The figure of the elephant in each case is the same size and shape. When displayed together the banks form a unique, attractive, interesting group.

Colors vary somewhat on each bank. The Elephant With Tusks On Wheels has the same green color base, but there is no gold highlighting as on the other two. The elephant is painted a similar brown to that of Jumbo. He has large white eyes with black pupils, a red mouth, and white tusks. His blanket is red with yellow edging or fringe representation. Complete colorings on the Jumbo and the Light Of Asia have already been covered in their individual articles. All three elephants, by the way, are fastened to their bases in the same fashion — by means of bent-over lugs cast in the right front and left rear legs.

The date of manufacture of the Elephant With Tusks On Wheels is well established by an 1885-1886 Salchow & Righter Catalog, which has a nice picture on Page 11 advertising the bank for sale. The old catalog picture is practically identical to the photo of the bank shown. Above the catalog picture appears the simple wording "Elephant Bank." Below the picture, quoting from the text, appears the following:

"Size 3 in. high, 4 in. long, 2 in. wide 48. The animal moves his head when a coin is deposited. It is a toy as well as a bank. Painted natural colors and packed one-half dozen in a box.

PRICE, \$1.75 PER DOZEN"

The writer has had this old catalog in his possession for years and often wondered if in fact a bank was made like this, or if it was an unintentional misrepresented picture used to illustrate the Jumbo. To explain the writer's point — on Page 9 of the same catalog the "Kicking Mule Bank" is pictured for sale. The picture used is that of the toy Kicking Mule, not the bank. While similar in appearance, they are quite different. In any event, this semi-mystery is now cleared up and we know that the Elephant With Tusks On Wheels is an actuality.

In closing, it bears mention that the writer is now convinced that partial confusion by early collectors as to the proper heart wheels on the Jumbo often resulted in their mistakenly replacing them with the improper wheels of a spoke type. The Jumbo and the Light Of Asia were made with the heart type wheels only, to the best of the writer's knowledge. He has never seen what could be considered original wheels of any other type on either bank.

A final note — the Elephant With Tusks On Wheels should be further up (lower number) in the numerical classification, along with the Light Of Asia and before Jumbo. As mentioned in previous articles with regard to banks in the same circumstances (recent new discoveries, and the like), there isn't much we can do about this as after all they are the exception, not the rule, and must be included in the classification articles.

Correction: The illustration of "The Give Me a Penny" bank in the June issue was erroneously printed upside down. Sorry!

[Mechanical Bank Ramblings](#)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1967

A rather interesting, informative and noteworthy experience occurred recently on the occasion of the writer going over some of the Emerine papers with Edwin Mosler, Jr. Mr. Mosler came into possession of the papers when he purchased the Emerine collection of mechanical banks last year. This was one of the few remaining intact collections of the so-called pioneer mechanical bank collectors.

One of the more outstanding papers involved from an information and background standpoint consisted of an analysis dated 1940 of 127 of the rarer and more desirable mechanical banks considered to be such at the time. Nine of the early collectors of mechanical banks — Corby, Hull, Ferguson, Meyer, Jones, Emerine, Downes, Thayer, and Wieder — were listed in columns, and each bank of the 127 was checked under the individual's name who possessed an example of the bank. Of considerable interest was the fact that out of 127 different banks only 8 were owned collectively by all nine collectors. These banks were the Bull Dog Savings Bank, Chimpanzee, Professor Pug Frog's Great Bicycle Feat, Dentist, Calamity, New Bank, Horse Race, and, of all things, the Uncle Sam Bust, a fake bank then and now.

In the list are a number of fakes, a few patterns, a few semi-mechanicals, and several items that are not banks at all. The heading or title of the list is "Mechanical Banks Rarity List", "Summary of 127 Items, October 1940". The rating of the nine collectors at the time insofar as the 127 items are concerned is as follows: Corby – 108, Jones – 102, Emerine – 64, Wieder – 60, Meyer – 49, Ferguson – 43, Thayer – 38, Hull – 27, and Downes – 17. Downes and Hull, the two smallest possessors in the group, were among the earlier collections to be broken up or sold. Corby and Jones, the two leaders by far in the group, are also collections that have been sold and broken up. And then, of course, the third place leader, the Emerine collection, was sold last year.

The list, as prepared by the group of nine collectors, has very definite helpful information with respect to today's collectors of mechanical banks. This in spite of the fact that a number of collectors at the time did not choose to join in. These include Marshall, the Evans collection, Chrysler, the writer, and a number of others. There may have been various reasons at the time why the group of nine prepared the list and also reasons on the part of those who did not participate.

Some of the individuals in preparing the list, in addition to wanting to know what other collectors of mechanical banks had in their collections plus a summary of how many of each bank was known to exist, perhaps had the idea of trying to control the market and prices of certain rare banks. Naturally this was completely unsuccessful from the price angle, as after all, there has never been, and most likely never will be, any set price on any mechanical bank, much less the rarer, more desirable ones. So all that would be accomplished by a price control effort would be to let some other collectors get some nice specimens for their collections. All one has to do if they want to question set prices on mechanical banks is to check old sales lists of Sherwood, then move to Miller and Ball, on into the Hollander-Chrysler sale list, and then to date, and the answer is clear—supply and demand and then what the individual collector is willing to pay. That's the price situation.

Back to the list of 1940! Of considerable interest is the fact that a number of the rare, desirable mechanical banks have remained, with little change in numbers, as to the known specimens that existed then and are now known to exist today—some 27 years later. For example:

Ding Dong Bell — Corby and Wieder on the list (Chrysler not included); none since.

Bow-ery Bank — Corby; and still the only known example.

3 Freedman's Banks in various stages — Ferguson, Emerine, and Meyer; and the only known complete original specimen has turned up since.

Frog on Arched Track — Corby; and only one other has turned up since.

Old Woman In The Shoe — Corby on the list (and Griffith not included); no others since.

Preacher In The Pulpit — Corby only; and one since.

Snake And Frog In Pond — Meyer and Jones; and still the only two.

Turtle Bank — Corby, Hull, and Jones; and none since.

The Target Bank — Corby; and possibly one authentic specimen since.

Clown On Bar — Corby; and only one since.

There are others but this is sufficient to well illustrate the point. The Bowling Alley is listed showing no owners, however, the late F.W. Wieder did obtain an example of the bank and it is still the only one known to exist.

Some fake banks listed are Barrel With Arms, Bull and Bear (Chrysler example only known authentic specimen), Bull Charging Boy, Carnival, Cat Chasing Mouse, Lost Dog, Ferris Wheel, Feed the Kitty, Hannibal, Moody and Sanky, Presto (all metal), Uncle Sam Bust, Trick Donkey, and a few others. Of the nine collectors, all owned in varying numbers all the listed fakes. In other words, three had Barrel With Arms, all nine had the Uncle Sam Bust, and seven had the Bull and Bear, and so on. Of course, in 1940 most of the collectors did not then realize that the fake banks they had were actually fakes. Others would try to justify their fakes in spite of their own suspicions that they were not authentic banks. Of course, this was just fooling one's self. It was an interesting period in mechanical bank collecting — there was good activity, competition really generated, and mechanical banks rapidly got off the ground as desirable collector's items. A thirst for knowledge and background information on mechanical banks developed and grew, as little was known about mechanicals then by most who collected them.

Activity and competition has continued through the years to date. And since the 1940 list our knowledge of these fine mechanical toy savings devices has made great strides and continues to do so. Many fine rare discoveries have been made since the list was compiled and we will try to go into this at another time.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1967

There has been some good action in recent months in mechanical bank circles insofar as "finds" are concerned. Outstanding above all else is the fact that a Seek Him Frisk Bank (Dog Trees Cat), after all the years that mechanical banks have been collector's items, has finally turned up, and it's a great bank with top action. This bank will be written up shortly—possibly in next month's issue. Seek Him Frisk, by the way, was listed in the 1940 group of banks which was discussed in last month's (August) issue. Even then it was a sought for bank, but no possessors among the nine collectors.

Another Giant In Tower has been found and this is noteworthy since it is a very scarce, difficult bank to find. It is English, of course, and of rather early manufacture as English banks go, having been made in the 1892 period. For details on the Giant In Tower see HOBBIES (March, 1961). It bears mention that the Giant In Tower makes a great companion bank to the American made Giant Bank (HOBBIES, July, 1952). The two banks make quite an attractive display when placed together.

Noteworthy, too, is the occasion whereby another Jonah & The Whale (Jonah Emerges From Whale's Mouth) comes to light. The fortunate collector in this case is Hubert Whiting, and he located a fine original specimen through a party in Long Island, N.Y. It is a very tough mechanical

bank to come by and less than the fingers on one hand can account for all examples known to exist. This, of course, is one of the great banks, and for further information on same see the HOBBIES, May 1953, article wherein the Emerine specimen is discussed.

George Bauer, collector and well known repairer of mechanical banks, recently obtained a Wimbledon Bank, and this is certainly worthy of mention as it is a fine specimen with the original flag, which is exceptional, as the flag is usually missing. The Wimbledon is one of the fine mechanicals and there are not too many around. It is also one of the early English banks and for detailed information see HOBBIES article, November, 1966.

Another Bureau Bank (Serrill Patent) has turned up through the good help of Mrs. Lillian W. Childs. Mrs. Childs is a doll collector and she had kept the Serrill Patent Bureau in with her doll collection as it was sold to her years ago as a salesman's sample of a doll's chest. This is a rather difficult item to come by and, of course, is important since it is the earliest known dated patented mechanical bank. See HOBBIES, May, 1967, for information on the Serrill Bank.

Of some interest to all mechanical bank collectors and particularly to those who like or specialize in the animal type, in particular elephants, a different type Elephant mechanical (at least to the writer) has come to the writer's attention. Most all collectors of the mechanicals are familiar with the two Gray Elephants, Large and Small, which simply move their trunks when a coin is inserted in their backs. These are No. 66 and 67 in the writer's mechanical bank booklet. In each case they have a Howdah on their back wherein the coin is inserted. Either bank is rather common and more or less easily obtainable. The Elephant in question is of similar appearance and action, however, there is no Howdah on his back, but rather a raised lip-like section where the coin is inserted. The trunk moves with more action than Nos. 66 and 67 as it is better constructed. "Pat. Appd. For" appears inside on one of the rear legs and the overall casting of this Elephant is different than the other two. So actually it is a different mechanical bank and adds another to the list of the known mechanicals. Please understand this is not an important item, but it is a bank that meets all requirements of being a mechanical, not a semi-mechanical. It is possible that the writer has overlooked this Elephant on some past occasion, taking for granted it was No. 66, the larger of the common type.

Some collectors of mechanical banks collect related items in cast iron toys. For example, the Donkey Cart as used on the Bad Accident Bank was made as a pull toy by Stevens. As well as the mechanical bank, they also made an I Always Did 'Spise A Mule toy. This toy has been a puzzle for years due to four lugs on the base that gave every appearance of being axles for some type of wheels. The writer could never justify the lugs being used as wheel axles due to their rather large diameter and the fact that each lug had a rounded capped end as part of the casting. Well at long last patent papers have come up with the answer. James H. Bowen, who also patented the mechanical bank, patented the toy April 22, 1879. In both the drawings and the text it is well defined as to the purpose of the lugs. Fixed pieces or bands of rubber were placed on the lugs and held in position by the capped ends of the lugs. These rubber rests prevented scratching or injury when the toy was played with on a table. In addition, it overcame the tendency of the toy to move when the rider struck the base. Last, they acted as a cushioning effect to ease the strain on the base. For those not familiar with this mechanical bank related toy, it should be explained that the writer has never seen the toy with the pieces or bands of rubber on the lugs. Various collectors over the years have asked if he knew what the lugs were for or what purpose they served. This being a rather early toy, it is most likely that the rubber pieces simply did not last for any great length of time.

It is with regret that we pass along the information that Andrew Emerine, a pioneer collector of mechanical banks, passed away July 3, 1967 at age 94. In the 1930's and 40's Mr. Emerine was

very active in collecting mechanical banks and was one of the first to turn up such rare banks as the Jonah & Whale (Jonah Emerges From Whale's Mouth), John Bull's Money Box, Wimbledon, Red Riding Hood, Freedman's Bank, and a number of others. He formulated quite a collection and enjoyed his hobbies which also included animated toy pistols, cigar cutters, animated toys, and a few cast iron toys. All of his collections, however, have been disposed of.

Seek Him Frisk Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1967

An occasion of the greatest satisfaction in collecting mechanical banks is that whereby a heretofore unknown mechanical bank is brought to light. As years and more years have gone by since mechanical banks first became collector's items, the frequency of such an occasion has, of course, percentage-wise decreased. But it still happens, and that's one of the great, intriguing aspects of collecting these interesting mechanical toy savings devices. So it is with real pleasure that we pass along the information a Seek Him Frisk Bank has been found, and it's a wonderful bank with lots of good action. This bank then, necessarily so at this point, is No. 159 in the numerical classification. Here again it must be brought out that the Seek Him Frisk belongs far up the list from its present classification, however, the number in itself is not now important and will suffice for present purposes.

Seek Him Frisk was patented July 19, 1881 by John Murray of New York City. The bank pictured as produced commercially operates as per the patent, with one improved exception. The cat, instead of going straight up the tree, actually goes around and up the tree. This improved action is considerably more attractive and realistic as described further on. Seek Him Frisk is the second of several banks patented by Murray. His first known patented bank (as yet undiscovered to the best of the writer's knowledge) was May 3, 1881.

This consisted of a bust type bank wherein the tongue protruded from the mouth of the head. The tongue was counter-balanced so a coin placed thereon caused the tongue to swing inside the mouth and the coin dropped or slid from the tongue hitting another counter-balanced lever inside the bank, which caused the eyes to vibrate up and down.

Murray patented another bank March 21, 1882 (also undiscovered to the best of the writer's knowledge). Quoting from the patent papers, this bank was as follows: "Invention consists in a toy savings bank constructed of a slotted platform having the figure of a man and a money-receiving compartment at its rear end and the figure of a hen-coop and a man at its forward end and carrying the figure of a dog connected with it by a slide and a spiral spring, the trip bar having the figure of chicken-heads upon its upper end, the pivoted eccentric block having the representations of eyes and a tongue, and a trip-lever, whereby the weight of a coin dropped upon the said trip-lever will release the dog, and the forward movement of the dog will cause the figure of the man to roll his eyes and draw in his tongue, and will project chicken-heads from his hat, as will be hereinafter fully described."

Murray then some nine years later patented another chicken coop motif bank October 27, 1891. Reference is made to this in the Uncle Remus Bank article (HOBBIES, October, 1953) as a possible connection. It is not known, however, with certainty that these were the patent papers for the Uncle Remus Bank.

The writer does not know, of course, if either the bust bank or the two with the chicken coop action were ever made. The fact that one of his patented banks has finally turned up is encouraging in the area that one or more of his other patents may have been produced and could eventually be discovered. In any event, acquiring the Seek Him Frisk Bank has afforded the writer a considerable amount of pleasure and satisfaction since he has off and on looked at the patent papers of this bank over a period of years wondering if it had ever been made.

Seek Him Frisk was obtained through the good help of an antique dealer in Ohio. Prior to the dealer it was in the possession of an elderly lady in Canton, Ohio. The bank shown is in nice condition with colors as follows: The overall base is black with green leaves thereon and some flower representations in yellow and red. The two tree stumps are brown, a few green lines down the sides, and have yellow tops. The tree is also brown with entwined green vines and the leaves at the top are green. The cat is silver with red eyes and mouth and the dog is gold with red eyes and mouth. This completes the coloring.

The bank as pictured in Figure 1 is set and ready for action. A coin slot is in the top of the large tree trunk at the left end of the bank. A coin dropped therein releases the dog and he moves rapidly along the base toward the cat at the bottom of the tree. Just as he reaches the cat, the cat swiftly goes up and around the tree, and each is then in position as in Figure 2. The animals are manually replaced as in Figure 1 for further action. In each case they snap into their respective positions and remain there until another coin is deposited into the tree stump slot.

The Seek Him Frisk is a really fine mechanical bank. It is well made and designed. It has appeal and realism in its subject matter, with excellent action. It is necessary to use a coin to start the action. These and other factors add up to a great bank and the writer feels very fortunate in being able to add this intriguing item to the list of known mechanical banks. In closing, it bears mention, to further point out the good design and mechanics of the bank, that the tree is adjustable at the base by means of a screw enabling the cat to be exactly positioned for contact by the dog.

Correction to September article:

In reference to Wimbledon Bank article, date should read 1956, not 1966.

Bureau Bank Bureau Bank
(Serrill "Patent applied for")

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1967

On specific occasions the writer has pointed out that any mechanical bank with the terminology "Patent Applied For" thereon, where dated specimens of the same bank exist, was manufactured prior to those dated. This, while an obvious fact, does have important bearing now and then, and particularly so when we come to our present case at hand. It now turns up that there is a Serrill Bureau Bank that is of necessity an earlier date bank than the dated type as described in HOBBIES, May, 1967. This bank, the Bureau Bank (Serrill "Patent applied for"), at this point No. 160 in the numerical classification, has two factors of considerable interest and importance. First note the difference in appearance between the "Patent applied for," Figure 1, and the dated bank, Figure 3. The bank as in Figure 1 has a closer resemblance to the patent diagrams than does the bank in Figure 3. Secondly, the patent papers in both text and diagrams specifically describe and show a spring mechanism which presses up on the bottom of the drawer. The bank in Figure 1 has this mechanism exactly as per the patent, while the dated example, Figure 3, has no spring arrangement of any kind.

The fact that the spring mechanism was not used on the dated bank is not important, and particularly operation-wise. It is of importance, however, that it was used on the earlier type. This plus its different appearance places the Bureau Bank (Serrill "Patent applied for") in its own category, and of necessity this bank will be known as Type 1 and the dated example as Type 2. In other words, these two banks are different enough to be classed as such, however, they are in essence the same bank and, therefore, the designation of Type 1 and Type 2 give them individual recognition. As further explanation, these two banks go beyond one just being a variety of the other. A variety, generally speaking, involves minor differences in the same bank. For example, the various varieties of the Tammany Bank, which are all the same in appearance, made the same way, and have the same mechanism. These are distinctly varieties, not different types, of the same bank.

The Bureau Bank (Serrill "Patent applied for") as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 is in fine original condition. It turned up in a New Jersey auction which was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Stein, who purchased it at the sale. Through their good help the bank came into the writer's possession. The operation and action is the same as that of Type 2 as described in the May, 1967 article.

The coin placed in the open drawer disappears when the drawer is closed and re-opened. Figure 2 shows the drawer open ready to receive the coin, however, this is not the main purpose of the picture, but rather to show the wording as printed on the drawer bottom.

In closing, it bears mention that at a later date the writer will go into detail as to a new, better, and more proper setup with regard to "Type" banks. For example, Hold the Fort will be one of the cases in point. What will be known as Type 1 is the earlier example having no name—five holes down the side, and is an entire different casting than the one that will be designated Type 2. This type has the name "Hold The Fort" along the side, as well as the word "Bank" on top. There are seven holes, not five, and it was made after the patent had been granted. Clark's name and the patent date appear on the underside of the base plate. Unlike Type 1, which has a large door coin trap in the cannon end of the fort, Type 2 has a more conventional trap in the bottom.

Banks then which were made in two types, for example, will belong in a regular collection, listed as such, and will properly be designated as different banks. Varieties, as in the past, will remain as such, simply a variation of a certain bank, not a different addition to a collection per se.

The Three U.S. Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1967

We have a most unusual photo this month concerning the U.S. Bank. This has to do with varieties of a bank and we are indebted to our good friend George Bauer of Pottstown, Pa., for the fortunate circumstances surrounding our being able to present this unique picture.

Variations of mechanical banks are of interest to all mechanical bank collectors and of specific interest to those who collect in this specialized fashion. The text will be short in this case so the photo can be shown in larger detail.

It is most unusual that a rather rare bank with more or less limited production would be manufactured with the differences as noted. The example on the left has no projection in the doorway over the head of the figure or at his feet. The center example has open tops in the upper windows. The bank on the right has a projection in the doorway over the figure and another at his feet. These variations, while rather slight in nature, still required a different pattern in each case,

and this is where the main importance lies. Modifications of this type are not easily diagnosed as there is, for example, no improvement in operation or in appearance. Just why the changes were made most likely will never be known.

At a future date the writer will go into further detail on other variations and the new class of "Type" banks as outlined in the November, 1967 issue.

Magie Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1968

A fascinating foreign tin mechanical, the Magie Bank, is our choice as No. 161 in the numerical classification. This bank is somewhat similar in action to the well known American made Magician Bank, that is to say the disappearance of the coin from the table top is the same principle in each case — the mechanism and operation, however, are different. And, of course, they are completely different in appearance.

The Magie bank shown was in the collection of the late Walter P. Chrysler. Where he obtained the bank is not known, however, it was in his collection in the early 1930's. Background on the Magie is sadly lacking, as is the case with most foreign made mechanicals, with the exception of those of English manufacture. We have been unable to determine the company or concern who made the bank or the definite period in which it was manufactured. However, we do know it was made in Germany and that it was a protected item. Like the Snake and Frog In Pond Bank (HOBBIES, August, 1961), the wording "Made in Germany" is printed on the Magie, along with the initials "D.R.G.M.". These initials as explained in the article on the Snake And Frog In Pond mean that the bank was protected in Germany on a similar basis to a patented item in our country.

At this point it is timely to go briefly into a subject which the writer has intended to do for some time now. This has to do with patented, registered or protected mechanical banks and the differences involved when made in our country as opposed to those of foreign manufacture. In the United States, in most cases, mechanical banks were patented by individuals and usually these same individuals designed the bank they patented. Because of this we can in practically all cases of a patented bank give a complete factual background story. In England, however, most all of the mechanical banks were patented by the manufacturers or concerns who produced them. Thus, we cannot determine the designer in the majority of cases of the English banks. Now going to banks that were made in Germany, we have a real problem because of the triple meaning of "D.R.G.M." and the lack of any method of tracing through any given bank. So far the writer has been unsuccessful in any efforts in the direction of determining factual background on German made protected mechanical banks. Nevertheless, it is still helpful in a number of cases of the earlier German made banks that they were so designated and identified. This is at least better than nothing to go on and does authenticate the country of manufacture and that they were a registered or protected item, and so on.

Back to the Magie Bank, the name itself is of interest. It is German and translates into our word "magic" or the "Black Arts" or "Magi." The word "magic" is generally thought by many to have derived from the Three Wise Men (the Magi) who brought gifts to the Infant Jesus. The word "magic" is derived from "Magi" but there were many Magi, other than the three mentioned. In Ancient Persia the Magi were a priestly caste who through sorcery gained the reputation of having wonderful occult powers. The feats they performed in exorcising devils was called in Greek "magike"—and from this word we derived our "magic." So this brings us to the pictured bank

which represents a sorcerer and the origin and source of the word we know today as magic.

The bank shown is a very decorative item with many bright colors. The sorcerer's tall peaked hat, for example, is striped in red, yellow, white, black, and blue. His robe is in these various colors and he has a long flowing white beard accentuated in shades of blue, green and black. The book or cover-like object held in his hands is black with the word "Magi" thereon in large white letters. The table top is red with unusual colored figures on each side and front. A blue and yellow dragon type representation is on the right side—on the front appears a multi-colored figural representation with four arms and hands — on the left side is a blue and yellow elephant with howdah and various other ornate decorations. A green base completes this very ornamental, attractive bank.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the circular section on top of the table. Then a lever, in back of the sorcerer, is pressed down. This causes the arms to lower bringing the book or cover down over the coin. When the lever is released the coin has disappeared as the moving parts return automatically to their original position as shown in the picture.

The Magie Bank is a rather tough item to add to a collection and fortunate today is the collector who possesses one.

Transvaal Money Box

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1968

We're changing our pace somewhat this month with respect to diverting into information on a semi-mechanical bank, rather than the usual mechanical. This is the first semi-mechanical to be treated in this fashion, at least as far as the writer is directly concerned, and we have picked the best and most desirable in this category. The bank is the Transvaal Money Box, a most interesting, finely detailed bank of English manufacture. At this point it is pertinent to mention that the Transvaal just gets under the wire in being classed out of the still bank category. The movement of the pipe and the fact it swings loose in the mouth of the figure is the basis of its classification as a semi-mechanical.

While we are on this subject, it is well to explain further that years ago the semi-mechanical class of banks was more or less created for the purpose of adding prestige to certain banks that were somewhat beyond just being still banks, but did not quite come up to being a full fledged mechanical. In some cases this has created a problem here and there with respect to the category of a specific bank, however, it is not anything earth-shaking one way or the other unless we choose to make it so. For example, to take the next step, the American Bank (Sewing Machine) is unquestionably a semi-mechanical bank, and nothing else. And as long as the semi-mechanical division exists, that's where it properly belongs. The writer recognizing tradition and established precedents has never done anything with respect to rectifying this situation. Only two other banks share the same position with the American Bank, and they are the Camera and the Safety Locomotive. In any event, it has been considered best to let well enough alone until such time that pressures may be brought to bear necessitating the change to proper and accurate classification of these three banks. This now brings us back to the top semi-mechanical, the Transvaal Money Box, which would not be the top semi if the three mentioned mechanicals were regrouped in the semi class.

The Transvaal Money Box was made by John Harper & Company, Ltd. in the period 1885 to early 1900. It is pictured in one of their old catalogs and under this picture the following statement is made: "After F.C. Gould, Esq. By permission of the Proprietors of the Westminster Gazette."

Following this statement is the unusual and pertinent information that the bank was made in three different figures—"Maroon Bronzed, Venetian Bronzed (Highly finished)," and "In various Colors."

W.G. Thompson, present officer of Harper, has kindly advised the writer that the Transvaal Money Box was never produced as a full mechanical bank and never considered such by them. This is pointed out due to the fact that a few Transvaals have been converted into mechanical banks by means of an added lever inside the bank operating in such fashion that a coin dropped into the top hat slot causes the pipe to move up and down. In addition, a cigar has been devised to operate in the same way. In either case, pipe or cigar, they are replacement or converted items when motivated by a coin and not authentic. The bank, by the way, was never manufactured with a cigar in the figure's mouth.

Condensed background information on the bank is of historical interest. The figure represents Paul Kruger (actual name Stephanus Johannes Paules Kruger), born October 10, 1825, died July 14, 1904. In the Transvaal he was known as "Oom Paul," which means Uncle Paul. The Transvaal consisted of a province in Northeast Union of South Africa where Paul Kruger was born. As a youth he was strong and active and killed his first lion at the age of 14. At a later period in his life he is said to have actually wrestled a buffalo, pinning it by the horns. Kruger as a man was large and thick set and of great vitality and strength. He spent years protecting the Transvaal from aggression and tyranny and from British encroachment specifically. He was of Dutch descent and spoke Afrikaans, a mixture of several languages. He was strongly anti-British, was President of the Transvaal from 1883 to 1900, and served during the Boer War of 1899. His representation as a bank (see photo) is an actual copy of a national cartoon figure in England, circulated in the period by the Westminster Gazette.

The bank shown is in fine complete original condition and in colors. The colored variety is the most desirable of the three finishes. Colors are as follows: He has a black-bronze hat, brown jacket, yellow vest with black buttons, blue-green trousers, and black shoes. His hair, beard, face and hands are a cream white. His lips are red. A pipe with black stem and yellow bowl completes the coloring.

The name "Transvaal Money Box" is well defined on the front of the top hat. Across the back of the figure is inscribed: "By permission of The Proprietors of the Westminster Gazette."

In closing, it is very difficult to find an example of this bank with the original pipe intact. The pictured specimen of the bank is possibly the only one known to exist in this fashion — although there may be one or two others.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1968

Over a period of the last few years, and particularly so with respect to recent times, the writer has been asked a rather pertinent question by numbers of mechanical bank collectors. Specifically this question has to do with the time period in which a mechanical bank is considered an old or antique item or of the modern type. At the present time the line of demarcation generally accepted is established at 1935.

In other words, mechanical banks manufactured prior to this time are looked upon as old desirable collector's items belonging in a collection of so-called antique mechanical banks. Banks made after this period are rated as the modern type. The modern type, by the way, offers quite a

field to the mechanical bank collector when one considers that from 1935 to 1968 there are over 100 different mechanical banks known to have been made. Many of these are very interesting and some, even though made since 1935, are rather difficult to find today.

We will not attempt at this time to go into great detail on the modern class of mechanical banks, however, it is interesting to note that Japan has produced some rather intriguing battery operated mechanical banks such as the Hole In One, Bowling Bank, Haunted House, and so on. They have also made a line of wind-up and battery operated spooky "hand" banks—even producing one for sale abroad which represents Uncle Sam's Hat in which a hand comes out of the top of the hat and grabs the coin placed thereon.

The American made Chein line of tin banks is quite desirable today and the writer will go into detail on these in a future article. Two mechanicals, both World War II vintage, are of considerable interest at this time, The Hitler Squealing Pig and the Bomb 'N' Bank. The Bombardier model of the Bomb 'N' Bank, by the way, utilized coins as bombs. It's an all metal bomber plane with a bombsight mechanism that releases coins into an enemy gas tank (bank).

A few old mechanical banks lap over the 1935 date, however, they were originally made prior to this time. The Hubley banks come to mind as the main ones in this category. There are the Trick Dog (Solid or One-Part Base), Elephant Howdah (Pull Tail), and the Monkey Bank. Production of the three banks was discontinued permanently during World War II in 1942.

In concluding for the present on the 1935 date, we must keep in mind that at some future not too distant time this date will be advanced. After all, mechanical banks were known to be collected in the 1920's while Stevens was still in production on certain of their mechanical banks. Of course, knowledge of the banks in those early collecting days was sadly lacking, but as interest increased into the 1930's, so did a certain degree of knowledge. Collecting then, in the main, settled on banks that were more or less known not to be in production at the time. For example, in the late 1930's the three previously mentioned Hubley banks were properly considered modern mechanical banks and had no place in a collection of old mechanical banks. Today, of course, this is not the case with these three banks.

Of considerable interest is the fact that another heretofore unknown mechanical bank has come to light. This is the Robot Bank, a Starkie patented mechanical money box of very interesting design and appearance. Research is presently underway and detail on the bank will appear in a future article.

Along with this, we have just received an additional "find." Edwin Mosler, Jr., recently returned from Europe with a tin Clown Bank of similar appearance to the Minstrel and the Scotchman. This bank is of German manufacture, brightly colored and quite attractive. As a matter of fact, the bank was undoubtedly made by the same concern who made the Minstrel and the Scotchman as the marking of the double S in a circle appears on all three. More about this bank will appear at a future date.

Then our latest good news in the mechanical bank collecting field! The avid Aaron Schroeder has turned up what might prove to be an unusual item. It's another tin bank, highly decorative, based on the polaroid colored photos sent to the writer. It represents a platform scale of the type that people would step on, insert a coin, and weigh themselves. In the case of the bank, however, as the writer understands it, a coin, according to size, moves the arrow on the dial to indicate what coin is deposited. On the face of the dial is the wording "Try Your Weight And Save Money." It would appear to be of German manufacture, but we will not attempt to pass along any further information until such time that the writer has examined the bank.

Mr. Schroeder has also recently acquired the Roup mechanical bank collection. The late Bill Roup was an active collector in his day and somewhat different than other collectors in that he, in the main, only wanted mechanical banks that appealed to him for one reason or the other. His collection, therefore, was not as extensive as some, however, he had certain of the rare, desirable banks. For example, he attended the Chrysler sale in 1955 and obtained the Chrysler Clown, Harlequin & Columbine; and later, through a trade, the Chrysler Mikado Bank. He had the only known example of the Presto Bank. He also had the Preacher In The Pulpit and several other fine banks among the 100 plus in his collection. Mr. Schroeder has made a forward step with the acquisition of the Roup collection.

In closing, it bears mention that the writer has reason, where possible, to refer to certain of the very rare desirable banks as the Chrysler Harlequin, the Jones Harlequin, the Corby Preacher In The Pulpit, the Corby Turtle, the Emerine Jonah & The Whale (Jonah Emerges), and so on. In most cases great banks of this nature were originally owned by (as a collector) the men referred to, and in this fashion it not only establishes a definite identity, but also a record as to which were perfect specimens to begin with—which were repaired—which have since been repaired or had anything done to them, and the like.

"Type" Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1968

Reference to a new setup with respect to "type" mechanical banks, which in fact adds a number of mechanicals to the regular listing, was made in the November, 1967, article on the Bureau Bank. It was explained that banks which were made in two different types will belong in a regular collection, listed as such, and properly recognized and designated as different banks. This does not affect varieties. As in the past, varieties will remain as such, simply a variation of a certain bank, not an addition to a regular collection.

While not earth shaking, this is a rather important step forward in the mechanical bank collecting field since it corrects a situation whereby certain banks have been improperly listed as a variety and thus due recognition has not been afforded these specific banks when listed in this fashion. Also, some degree of past confusion is corrected. This specifically applies where a collector wondered, for example, which Hold The Fort was the proper or "right" one, or which Horse Race, and so on.

The new setup will in no way affect the specialty collector of varieties. As a matter of fact, it will help clear the air for the variety collector by establishing a better line of demarcation. Any variety of a mechanical bank will be just that—a variation of any given mechanical. The individual collector then in his varieties can draw the line as fine as he wants to—even going so far as, for example, where a bank has Patent Applied For thereon or the Patent Date. The writer has never considered this, Patent Applied For or the Patent Date, important enough in itself to recognize as a variety. However, it is up to the individual collector and it is his privilege to do so if he chooses.

Now going the other way—if a bank has Patent Applied For thereon, and at a later date a different type was made and the Patent Date used or not, then this is a different story and we are now into the "type" banks, not a variety.

At this point we will list the present known "type" banks in their alphabetical order.

Bureau (Wood) – Type I
(Serrill Patent Applied For)

Bureau (Wood) – Type II (Serrill Patent)
 Cat And Mouse Bank – Type I (Cat standing upright)
 Cat And Mouse Bank – Type II (Cat standing on head)
 Halls Lilliput – Type I (No tray)
 Halls Lilliput – Type II (Tray)
 Hold The Fort – Type I (5 holes)
 Hold The Fort – Type II (7 holes)
 Home Bank – Type I
 Home Bank – Type II (Dormer windows)
 Horse Race – Type I (No coin trap)
 Horse Race – Type II (Flanged base – edged archways)
 New Bank – Type I (Lever in center)
 New Bank – Type II
 Trick Savings Bank (Wood) – Type I (End drawer)
 Trick Savings Bank (Wood) – Type II (Front drawer)
 Uncle Tom – Type I (Ear lugs – no star – solid base)
 Uncle Tom – Type II (Screw – star – base plate)

Please note the foregoing list of banks does not in each case show all differences between Type I and Type II. Only the salient or quickly identifiable difference is noted. For example, there are a number of other different features between Type I and Type II Hold The Fort, but each is quickly identified by the number of holes along the side of the fort. Also please note that at some future date there may be additions to the present list. It is always possible that another type of a certain bank may turn up. In the past year or two, for example, many new varieties have been discovered. This is a result of more careful examination plus new finds.

To help illustrate the situation with regard to "type" mechanicals, we picture in Figure 1 Uncle Tom—Type I, and in Figure 2 Horse Race—Type II.

The Uncle Tom shown has no screw in the back to hold it together. A lug in back of each ear bent to conform does an efficient job of holding the two halves together. There is no base plate in the bank. Front half and back half are cast to form their own base into which a coin trap fits very nicely. There is a spring inside assisting the mechanism which conforms to the patent papers covering the bank. The contour of the hair is unlike Type II and "Pat Apl For" is inscribed across the back, unlike Type I which shows the date. Finally, there is no star on the shirt front. Information with respect to Uncle Tom—Type II and Uncle Tom (No Lapels) appeared in HOBBIES, February, 1966.

The Horse Race Bank—Type II shown is in unusually pristine condition, even to having the original paper label in the provided section on top. Note the flanged base. This base, Unlike Type I, has a screw lock sliding coin trap for easier removal of coins. The two arches have a cast edging on the peaks as well as down the sides. In overall height, the bank is taller than Type I. The round indentations in the peak of each arch are larger and the casting of the extensions holding the arches in place are different than Type I. In addition, the writer has never seen Type I painted with striping around the top circular edge. Information on the Type I Horse Race appeared in the March, 1959, issue of HOBBIES.

To conclude, many varieties of foreign banks have turned up, but so far none that could be classed as a "type" bank. With respect to semi-mechanicals, the Key (Combination) is the only one of this group known to date to exist in two types. The casting of the handles and the clever

mechanism for removal of coins is considerably different and Type II has the terminology "Pat" inscribed thereon.

The Robot Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1968

Once again it is the writer's pleasure to announce the discovery of a heretofore unknown mechanical bank. The bank, The Robot, is a very interesting item of English origin and a product of Robert Eastwood Starkie, well known for two of his other money boxes—Jolly Nigger (Moves Ears) and the Tank And Cannon. Starkie and his banks are rather intriguing. We still do not know too much about Starkie himself, and his banks have a certain crudeness or primitive way about them that has a degree of appeal. They have certain character and individuality as compared to most of the other mechanical banks.

The Robot has all the Starkie touches and would be readily recognizable as one of his banks, even if his name and the patent number did not appear on the back (Figure 2). The fact, however, that his name and the patent number do appear is of importance and add measurably to the stature of the bank. So far the exact date of the bank has not been pinned down. Research is still under way at this point and we do have some facts to pass along. If we don't come up with any further information it is not earth shaking one way or the other.

The Patent Number 26432 of necessity is prior to 1916. The Patent Office in London prior to 1916 repeatedly used the numbers of five digits each year through 1915. Since 1916 accepted specifications have been given a six figure serial number starting with 100,000. Patents granted before 1916 retained their application number and then were consequently repeated each year. It is, therefore, possible prior to 1916 to have an application number that would become abandoned or void and no patent actually ever granted.

This yearly duplication of numbers in the English Patent Office, of course, makes it considerably more difficult to check patents prior to 1916 than in our United States Patent Office. If we had a patent number shown on an American made bank, which is practically never the case, there would be very little involved in getting the patent information from our Patent Office, unless the number was incorrect or something of this nature. In any event, at this time we know the Robot was made by Starkie prior to 1916, which would make it his earliest known mechanical money box.

The bank pictured was found in England and is in reasonably good condition. It is made of aluminum and colors are as follows: The postman wears a blue uniform and hat with black band, his carrying bag and hair are brown, his shoes are black. A short red strip is on each coat sleeve and his front buttons are red. His face and hands are pink and the letter held in his raised right hand is white. The door is red, door frame white, the section around the frame is green with red edging forming the peak outline. The base upon which the postman stands is green with red edging. The name, door knob, bell pull, and Number 10 are tan. Facial details such as eyes, eyebrows, moustache in tan complete the coloring of the bank.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the provided slot in the letter. Then a lever located between the postman's legs is pressed down. In so doing the left arm lowers as though pulling the bell cord. At the same time the right arm moves forward and down as though depositing the letter in the door slot. The coin, of course, slides into the slot and falls into the receptacle shown in Figure 2. As shown in Figure 1, all parts automatically return to their positions upon releasing the lever.

In closing, it bears mention there may be political or satirical reference in connection with the

name Robot and possibly the Number 10 in reference to Downing Street. Nothing of factual nature is known in either case as yet and subsequent research may shed some light on these possibilities. The Robot, of necessity at this time since it should be higher in the list, is No. 162 in the numerical classification.

"Darky Bust"

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1968

Mechanical banks made of tin are of considerable interest and among the tin mechanicals are some real "toughies" — very difficult to add to a collection. Take the Royal Trick Elephant, for example. After all the years since one turned up in the 1930's, this one is still the only known specimen. Then there's the Snake And Frog In Pond. Only two examples of this fine action bank are known to exist, and these were found years ago. Also very limited are the Calumet, Magie, Little Jocko and, of course, the greatest of all tin mechanicals, Ding Dong Bell. To the best of the writer's knowledge, the last Ding Dong Bell to appear on the market was in 1955 and this had remained dormant in the Chrysler collection which was in storage for some years. So this wasn't the case of another specimen turning up, but rather going from one collection to another.

Another point in favor of tin mechanicals (this has been mentioned before and bears repeating) is that there is no need for concern with regard to recasts. In other words, the inexperienced collector need not seek professional advice with regard to the known mechanical banks made in tin. It isn't likely that those individuals involved in recasting cast iron mechanical banks will attempt to reproduce any of those made of tin. Various factors, including high costs, preclude this happening and tin mechanical banks simply don't lend themselves to being reproduced.

The foregoing brings us to another "toughie" tin mechanical, the "Darky Bust," our choice as No. 163 in the numerical classification. It is a very attractive little bank, only 3-5/8" high.

The small size of the bank is very definitely a contributing factor to its scarcity. It is not a rugged item and could not stand much abuse. The bank has excellent action but the mechanism as compared to other mechanicals is quite fragile and easily put out of order. Its chance of survival in the hands of a child wasn't very great.

There are no markings of any kind on the bank and we don't know what concern manufactured it. However, it is foreign made and most certainly German. Fortunately, we are able to date the bank since it is advertised for sale in the 1907 Butler Bros. Catalog. A picture of the bank is shown in this old catalog. The action is described and it sold at the fantastic price of 33c per dozen! As an original selling price, this is the least expensive of all the mechanical banks known to the writer.

The bank pictured was found in the Lebanon Springs area of New York State and is in unusually fine original condition. It is lithographed in bright colors as follows: The turban is yellow with a red tassel down the back, the face is brown with red lips and tongue and white eyes with black pupils. What appears to be a loop type earring in yellow with dash of red is in each ear. The large collar of the jacket is red with white edging. The jacket is a loud checkered yellow and black with red buttons. A white shirt and yellow string tie and vest complete the coloring of this most attractive mechanical.

To operate the bank there is a coin slot in the top of the turban. A coin dropped into this slot causes the eyes to flicker and the tongue protrudes and recedes. This action, caused by the weight of the coin, is fast and the moving parts return automatically to their respective positions. As shown in the picture, the tip end of the tongue is bent down. It was manufactured in this fashion and is of

necessity so that the tongue does not recede entirely into the mouth. In the base of the bank there is a key locking coin trap for removal of coins.

To date only three specimens of this bank are known to exist. The other two have no coin trap in the base and it must follow that during some period of the manufacture of the bank the error of the omission of a coin trap was discovered and corrected. It also follows that those without traps simply had to be broken or destroyed in order to remove coins. This undoubtedly is a contributing factor to its scarcity, as is the case with the Calumet Bank where no provision was made for removal of coins.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1968

We'll start our "Ramblings" this time with something that's always a pleasure to write about, and that's the detailed news of a new "find" in a mechanical bank. Reference was made to the bank in Mechanical Bank Ramblings for March, 1968, but no picture, which we now have, was available at the time. The bank is Jolly Joe and the fortunate collector to discover it was Edwin Mosler, Jr. This he accomplished on a recent trip to Europe and the attractive bank (clowns are a favorite subject matter with many collectors, including the writer) turned up in Paris.

Jolly Joe shows all evidence of being made by the same German concern that manufactured the Minstrel and the Scotchman. All three banks are constructed of tin in the same fashion with the same mechanical action — depressing the lever causing the tongue to protrude to receive the coin. As yet it has not been determined just who made these three banks. We only know they were made in Germany.

Note in the picture the Jolly Joe has long thin arms with gloved hands. The right hand glove of the clown has "Made In Germany" in circular lettering thereon. This lettering is around a double entwined large S, which marking may be helpful at some future date in ascertaining the manufacturer. The left glove of the clown has DRGM thereon, which was the German equivalent to our patent.

The Jolly Joe pictured is in bright lithographed colors, fine original condition, and will be classified and further detailed at a future date. Mr. Mosler is to be congratulated on his acquisition of this attractive new find in a mechanical bank.

Mr. Mosler has recently accomplished another coup in the mechanical bank collecting field in acquiring a fine original Presto Savings Bank (HOBBIES, March, 1960). This is not the case of a bank going from one collection to another, but is in fact the third specimen of this bank to turn up — two only were known to exist prior to the one now in the Mosler collection. The veteran collector, John D. Meyer, was fortunate in being the first to acquire one of these rare banks in the late 1930's. Then the second turned up in the early 1960's. And now the third in 1968. So this rare desirable bank has maintained a high level of rarity over the years and this is most likely to remain the case due to the bank itself. It is a rather early item as mechanical banks go and being constructed in the main of wood and paper with the cloth covered mouse, it was not a particularly durable bank and would not stand any degree of rough usage.

Further news in the area of recent rare finds is the Red Riding Hood Bank, No. 22 in the numerical classification (HOBBIES, July, 1953). An extra nice, completely original example of this very desirable bank turned up recently. This too is an addition to the known existing examples of this rare bank, and it did not come from one of the established or larger collections.

Now to "type" mechanical banks and some additions to the special article concerning them which appeared in HOBBIES, April, 1968. First, to keep this new "type" situation clarified for now and in the future, there are four banks that have always been listed separately as completely different banks that should be changed. These are two of the Organ Banks and two of the Owl Banks. They will be properly identified now as follows: Organ Bank, Type I (Cat And Dog), Organ Bank, Type II (Boy And Girl); Owl, Type I (Slot In Book), Owl, Type II (Slot In Head).

The Pelican Banks, since the figures that appear are completely different, will now, rather than a variety, be as follows: Pelican Bank, Type I (Man Thumbing Nose), Pelican Bank, Type II (Mammy). For years there has been said to exist a Pelican Bank with a Rabbit, and if any reader has seen or knows about this bank the writer would appreciate the individual getting in touch with him. Write c/o HOBBIES or to his address as shown in various ads.

Finally, for present additions to the "type" banks, the Calumet Bank (HOBBIES, November, 1966) has now turned up in a different type. This new find has a larger size "can" made of cardboard with tin ends. The face of the boy and the lettering "Thank You" are somewhat different than the bank as pictured in the November, 1966, article. Other differences are in the color of the paper can coverings and the printing thereon. So we now have Calumet Bank (Tin), Type I (Metal Can), and Calumet Bank (Tin), Type II (Cardboard and Metal Can).

With the correction of the two Organ Banks and two Owl Banks and addition of the Pelican and Calumet, the "type" bank situation is now up to date and permanent as of this writing. Since, however, there is nothing so permanent as change, it is possible at some future date to have additions to the "type" banks. If and when this should occur readers will be so advised.

L.C. Hegarty, Collector

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1968

It is with regret that we inform our readers of the death of L.C. Hegarty, well known collector of mechanical banks and cast iron toys. Mr. Hegarty suffered a fatal heart attack Sunday, June 2, 1968. He is survived by his widow Gertrude, a son and daughter, and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Hegarty was born December 2, 1902 in Coalport, Pa., and lived there throughout his entire life. Both he and Mrs. Hegarty had a deep interest in antiques in general and formulated a fine collection of colored glassware with varieties of other antique furnishings for their home.

During the 1940's Mr. Hegarty became interested in mechanical banks and this subsequently became his main collecting hobby. His interest accelerated rapidly, was shared by his wife, and together they formulated one of the outstanding collections of mechanical banks.

Among Mr. Hegarty's accomplishments in the field of collecting mechanical banks was the acquisition in 1955 of the well known and extensive Corby collection. Many fine banks were added to his collection by this acquisition. In addition he acquired the outstanding collection of blown glass banks. This group of glass banks was a favorite of Dr. Corby's and the finest known to exist. Mr. Hegarty also, since he acquired all the Corby banks, had many still banks in cast iron, tin, pottery, paper, and so on, and also a rather sizeable group of "safe" type banks.

It was the mechanical banks in the Corby collection, however, that was the important phase in increasing the stature of Mr. Hegarty's collection. He was a deeply dedicated collector, and while the Corby banks certainly helped, Mr. Hegarty spent endless hours, days, weeks, and time seeking out individual mechanicals he did not have.

Along with mechanical banks, Mr. Hegarty's interest in cast iron toys grew by leaps and

bounds and here again he and his wife grouped together an outstanding collection of fine toys. These included horse drawn items such as fire equipment, carriages and pleasure vehicles, work toys, comics, circus wagons, streetcars, and other types. Also bell ringing toys, toy automobiles, and trains. In addition Mr. Hegarty also had an outstanding collection of toy pistols, including most of the rare animated type.

Insofar as mechanical banks are concerned, the Hegarty collection has many of the desirable and rare banks therein. These include such top mechanicals as the Old Woman In The Shoe; Clown, Harlequin & Columbine; Red Riding Hood; Merry-Go-Round; Mikado; Shoot The Chute; Chinaman In Boat; Springing Cat; Wimbledon Bank; Tommy Bank; Clown On Bar; Ding Dong Bell; Motor Bank, and Turtle.

In the rare, unusual type are such banks as the Target (Fort and Cannon); Musical You Pay, I Play (Wood Easel); Guessing Bank (Woman's Figure); Schley Bank; Frog On Arched Track; Shoot That Hat Bank; Preacher In The Pulpit, and the only known specimen of the Bow-ery Bank.

In addition to regular production mechanical banks, Mr. Hegarty also over the years added some quite rare experimental or pattern type banks. These include Dinah And The Fairy, Wishbone, Hall's Yankee Notion, Hall's Empire, Twin Bank, and several others. These are made in brass or lead and are experimental pieces that were never known to have reached the production stage. In other words, they are more or less contemplated banks made in prototype or model form that for one reason or another never got off the ground.

Mr. Hegarty, with his wide intense interest in the cast iron toy field, in particular mechanical banks, will be an irreplaceable cog in the wheel of collectors. In deference to the monthly articles, it is fitting to acknowledge a dedicated collector, his truly great collection, and convey our sympathies to Mrs. Hegarty and the family.

Gem Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1968

Following through with our recent discussion of the best of the semi-mechanical banks, Transvaal Money Box (HOBBIES, February, 1968), we are now going into detail on the greatest of the registering banks, the Gem Bank. While not in the mechanical category, considerable interest centers around the Gem since it is a Bailey designed bank and, as we shall see, closely relates to the Perfection Registering (HOBBIES, September, 1959). There is not much question as to the Gem being the most important of all the registering banks and there certainly are quite a number and variety of banks that form the registering category.

The Gem Bank pictured is in the finest original condition that one could ever hope to find, right down to the original paper label as shown in Figure 2. It was patented January 10, 1893, by Charles F. Bailey of Cromwell, Conn., and made by the J. & E. Stevens Company, also of Cromwell. The patent papers covering the bank are of considerable interest since they also cover the Perfection Registering. And, as a matter of fact, the diagrams which are part of the patent show the Perfection Registering. The operation and mechanism of each bank is the same and this is the salient feature linking them to the same patent.

The Gem is quite unusual in appearance, particularly as to configuration, and like most Bailey designed banks very attractive with ornate delineation of vines, flowers, leaves, and so on covering the bank in general. It would be rather difficult to describe the shape or form of the bank and Figures 1 and 2 well illustrate this point. The outline of the bank is unique and the writer feels

Bailey had something definitive in mind — just what is still unknown to the writer — if in fact Bailey had a definite purpose as to shape. In any event, the bank is rather attractive and painted in gold and silver — all over gold with highlighting of flowers, vines and leaves in silver. The scale or numbered paper section, from 5 to 100, is a dark-black with numbers and lines in gold.

As to operation, the "Directions for Operating" which appear on the original paper label as shown in Figure 2 cover this very well. The directions read as follows:

"Turn the thumb piece to the top stop; drop the coin in slot; turn thumb piece to the right to bottom stop, and deposit is made. After full amount is deposited, the large dial with stop may be turned to the right, taken off, and cash removed. Before replacing take hold of the money receiver and screw the pointer back to the extreme end of bank, then turn to the right until the pointer comes to the first mark on scale. See that the receiver stands directly up and down, so that first coin deposited will drop into it. Then the Bank is ready to be closed and refilled."

So much for the directions and operation of the bank. The paper label, by the way, partly covers a rather decorative base plate. The word *Gem* is cast in rather large capital letters, and above this there is the patent date "January 10, 1893."

Now to clarify a situation with respect to the operation of the Perfection Registering (refer to article in September, 1959, HOBBIES). The girl moves from left to right in pointing to the scale and the amount of money in the bank. In other words, just as in the Gem, each coin moves the pointer from the left to the right. It bears repeating that the Perfection Registering is in fact a registering bank, however, since the girl moves with the pointer, this is the basis of its being classified as a mechanical bank. The writer wishes to re-mention, however, that the Gem is a registering bank only and is not and does not have any qualifications to justify it as a mechanical bank. It stands well on its own as being the best and most desirable of the registering banks, and this is a very satisfactory niche for the Gem to occupy.

Some Recent "Finds"

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1968

There has been considerable activity in the field of collecting mechanical banks in recent months and certain of this activity has unearthed some quite rare banks. To bring our readers up to date on some of this action — for example, Edwin H. Mosler, Jr. has acquired among other banks the Robot, Woodpecker, and a Signal Cabin. Mr. Mosler, recently in Europe, had the good fortune to run across The Robot when in England. This is certainly a rare find and the second example known to exist. Please refer to Hobbies, May, 1968, for information on the first known example of this bank. Speaking of The Robot, the only additional information we have been able to ascertain as of this writing is that the word "Robot" was first used in a play, Copek's R.U.R., in 1920 with reference to a substitute for a human workman, or a mechanical man. It may well be that Starkie called the bank The Robot with complete reference to the figure of the postman as representing a mechanical man.

The Woodpecker acquired by Mr. Mosler is a fine complete original specimen and the small elusive tin Signal Cabin is also in nice condition. The Signal Cabin, like numbers of the tin banks, is a tough item to add to a collection. Frankly it doesn't have the attractiveness of some of the other tin mechanicals, but this is somewhat beside the point as it is a challenge to acquire one of these banks — they just don't seem to turn up very often. Frankly the writer feels it is most likely there are individuals possessing the Signal Cabin that don't necessarily realize it is a bank. After all, the

small brick-like building with the semaphore that moves up and down does in fact look like a train set accessory, something to go with an electric or wind-up toy train. See photo "Signal Cabin."

Further news concerns Aaron Schroeder who recently added a very nice example of the Darky Bust (HOBBIES, June, 1968) to his collection. While identical in color to the other then known examples, his, unlike the one pictured in the June article, does not have a locking coin trap.

And yet another Darky Bust has turned up! This one in mint condition, no coin trap, but different coloring. The colors are as follows: Turban is red with black tassel down the back, the jacket is a loud checkered red and black with gold buttons. A gold shirt, red string tie, and gold vest striped in red are the differences in coloring as compared to the other known examples. It's amazing when we consider that the bank was definitely sold in 1907 by Butler Brothers and it was only in recent years that the first example was found. Then in a comparatively short period of time three examples turn up more or less in succession. Sure makes the hobby interesting!

Following through with Mechanical Bank Ramblings for March, 1968, we are now able to go into detail on the recent discovery by Mr. Schroeder of the Try Your Weight Bank. This bank is shown in Figures 1 and 2. It, like the Darky Bust, was pictured for sale in the 1907 Butler Brothers Catalog. We quote from this catalog:

"Automatic registering bank, litho in colors, gilt stripes, upright cabinet on raised platform, numbered dial with moving hand, will register 1, 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents when inserted in slot after lever is pressed, brass lock and key at base. ht. 6-3/8 in., 1/2 doz. in box. Doz \$1.95."

This bank, while referred to as a registering bank as per above, is in the writer's opinion a mechanical bank and not just a registering bank. It in fact registers nothing. The hand on the dial points to the amount of the coin deposited. This action is caused by the weight of the coin. Then when the lever is pressed the coin is released from the inside mechanism and the pointer hand returns to its normal position. Nothing is registered, only the type coin is designated, that is, if a penny, nickel, dime, and so on.

The Try Your Weight Bank is a very attractive item in the following colors: The base of the scale, top, and entire back is red, as is the medallion centered under the face of the scale. The drape effect on each side of the front is also red. There is various gold outlining and decoration of the peak, sides, medallion and scale face. Each side and front has interesting decorative effect in blue, green, brown and red. A small rural scene in circular form appears on each side. The lettering "Try Your Weight and Save Money" and "Cents" is black and the numerals are red. The face of the scale is white and a small white section with "Press Here" written thereon is by the coin release and resetting lever. The scale platform section of the base is a mottled blue, red and black. The picture in each circle on either side, by the way, consists of a German type thatched cottage with tall trees and sunset.

Figure 1 shows the bank front view. In Figure 2 the coin slot and lever are well defined as is the small circular picture referred to in the description of the coloring. Other than "Made in Germany" on the bottom left side, no other markings appear on the bank.

Lucky Wheel Money Box

Little Hi-Hat

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1968

Two English banks, one appropriate for the Christmas Season and made of tin, and the other cast iron, both quite difficult to come by, are the subjects for our dual classification article for

November.

The first of these, No. 164 in the classification, Figure 1, is the **Lucky Wheel Money Box**, a quite rare tin bank. Leonard A. Galati of California, to the best of the writer's knowledge, is the initial collector to discover an example of this bank. The bank came to him through an English source and it is in very nice condition.

W. & R. Jacob & Company of England were the distributors of the Lucky Wheel Bank. Jacob & Company are a well known, very fine, long established concern who produce various delicacies in biscuits and cakes. The Lucky Wheel was originally filled with small iced biscuits and sold only during the Christmas Season of 1929. In the 1920's and 30's they introduced a special children's novelty tin each Christmas, but 1929 was the only time they featured a mechanical money box.

The bank shown in Figure 1, as previously mentioned, is in fine original condition. Colors are as follows: The large circle on the front with the sections where the fortunes appear are in alternate colors of dark blue and yellow. Red lettering appears on the yellow and black lettering on the blue. The gold decorated center wheel has a black arrow thereon. Below this on a predominantly red and blue background are four pairs of tan rabbits attending a dance. They are dressed in bright colors of blue, red, white, lavender and yellow. The lower part of a Christmas tree with red berries, candles, and vari-colored Christmas balls appear just under the wheel. Green holly with red berries is around the entire front edge and two small Christmas trees in blue pots are in the bottom foreground. Ornamentation of similar nature to that just described is along the sides and curved top of the bank. This all adds up to a very bright, gayly colored Christmas-y bank.

The operation of the bank depends upon the insertion of a coin and this is always a desirable feature in a mechanical bank. When the coin is deposited in the provided slot in the top of the bank the weight of the coin causes the wheel to spin and the arrow to point to one of the 12 fortunes.

In closing on the Lucky Wheel Bank, it is very nice to have another Christmas mechanical bank turn up. It makes an appropriate subject matter companion to the Santa Claus Bank (HOBBIES, December, 1966).

Little Hi-Hat, No. 165 in the classification, Figure 2, would seem to be, from all evidence, a very difficult mechanical bank to add to a collection. It has been quite a few years since the writer last heard of an example of this perky bust type bank turning up.

In appearance, except for the elegant top hat, the bank is practically identical to Little Joe, made by John Harper & Company, Ltd. of England. The writer has some of their old catalogs, 1890 to 1930, showing Little Joe, Dinah, and other bust type banks. Chamberlin & Hill, Ltd., another English concern, also made bust type banks, but no catalog of theirs or Harpers, that are in the writer's possession, show Little Hi-Hat. The writer feels that with the very definite similarities in the castings of Little Joe and Little Hi-Hat, Harper made the bank.

The bank shown is in fine original condition with colorings similar to most of the bust type banks. The hat is white with black band, face and hand are black. Red lips and tongue with black and brown eyes. The shirt is red with white collar, and black tie. In an indented section in the back appears the name "Little Hi-Hat" in large raised gold letters.

The bank operates like the majority of the bust type banks. A coin is placed on the extended right hand as shown in the photo. A lever, left rear shoulder is depressed and the hand rises to the mouth depositing the coin therein. Tongue recedes and the eyes move upward. Releasing the lever automatically returns all parts to the positions as shown in the photo.

The exact reason for the apparent scarcity of this bank is not known to the writer, but possibly, like the English Clown Bank (Bust), (HOBBIES, May, 1961), there were not too many of them

made nor were they produced over a number of years.

A final word about the name Little Hi-Hat. It would logically seem to connect this bank to Little Joe since both utilized the name "Little." This then would, of course, lead to Harper making both banks. In this case though the name cannot necessarily be a factor of this nature since the most mechanical of all the bust banks is Little Moe (HOBBIES, August, 1958), and we know this was made by Chamberlin & Hill and shown only in their old catalogs.

Fortune Teller Savings Bank **5c Adding Bank**

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1968

A great number of toy savings banks were made in the form of a safe, but only three of the many different types fit into the mechanical bank category. These are the United States Bank (HOBBIES, August, 1956), the Watch Dog Safe, and the Fortune Teller Savings Bank, our choice as No. 166 in the numerical classification.

The Fortune Teller was patented February 19, 1901 by Aaron Kaufman of Baltimore, Md. He assigned the patent to Baumgarten & Company, also of Baltimore, and they manufactured the bank. The drawings accompanying the patent show the view window on the front of the safe door. For some reason this location was changed to the top in the production bank. Other than this, the bank as produced closely follows the patent and drawings with the exception of a separation plate inside the bank to protect the fortune wheel from the coins.

The bank shown, Figure 1, is in nice original condition with overall nickel plate finish. The fortune wheel inside the bank is made of tin with a printed paper of fortunes in color thereon. Strangely enough there are thirteen different fortunes on the wheel and these appear in sections of green, red, yellow, blue and black. The name is on the front door of the safe as shown in the photo. On the bottom of this bank is inscribed "Pat. Feb. 19, 1901." The writer has seen other specimens with just "Pat" on the bottom. He has also seen one with a very colorful paper label on the back, and for description of this please refer to HOBBIES article January, 1964. This example, by the way, had "Pat" on the bottom. It is not known to the writer if all examples of the Fortune Teller originally had paper labels on the back. It may well be that only those with "Pat" on the bottom originally had the paper label, however, it is the writer's opinion the label was used on all Fortune Tellers. The plain back casting with the very decorative front and sides would logically indicate this.

To operate the bank a coin is dropped into the operating lever on top of the safe. The coin engages a toothed wheel and when the lever is pushed back the fortune wheel is caused to spin, stopping with one of the fortunes showing in the glass covered section on top. The coin disengages itself during the action and drops to the bottom of the bank. It is necessary to use a coin to operate the bank and, of course, this is a desirable feature. As with most safe type banks, coins are removed by means of a combination lock.

The 5c Adding Bank, Figure 2, is our choice as No. 167 in the numerical classification. Its companion, the 10c Adding Bank, is No. 168. For picture of the 10c Adding Bank, please refer to the HOBBIES article December, 1963. The only difference between the two banks is the use of a nickel in one case and the dime in the other. What we have to say about the 5c Adding also applies to the 10c.

The bank was patented August 20, 1889 by Isaac Pforzheimer of New York City and he

assigned one-half to Carl Zallud, also of New York. While very definitely made as a toy savings device, the patent covers a "Ticket and Cash Registering Machine." The basis of the operation of the mechanism is directly connected with the diameter of the coin.

The 5c Adding Bank shown is in fine complete original condition. It is an overall black with stenciling in gold and bronze. Decorations appear on the sides and top. Both sides and back are perforated castings with holes as shown on the side in the photo. Plainly stenciled on the back is "Pat'd Aug. 20th 1889" and the name and other stenciling on the front can be seen in the picture.

The bank operates as follows: Each nickel deposited in the coin section is indicated in a small window aperture in the top, 05, 10, 15, and so on up to 95 and then 00 for the 20th nickel. As the 20th nickel is deposited, the front section (under the wording "Adding Bank") swings open automatically. At the same time in the other window aperture the number 1 appears. This continues up to 9 and then back to 0. The front opening must be closed manually after each 20th nickel.

In the main the bank is cast iron, including the part that opens. However, the front on some inside mechanism are a lead like pewter metal.

The 5c Adding is considered a mechanical bank due to the automatic opening front section. While this is another border-line case, there is some merit to its being classed as a mechanical and it has been accepted as such for some years. It is, however, like the Perfection Registering, also a registering bank.

Butting Goat (Tree Stump)

Boy and Bull Dog

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1969

The H.L. Judd Company who specialized in small simple action banks again comes into the picture as we reach this point in the numerical classification. The mechanicals they manufactured, in their day, seemed to have reached a certain degree of popularity, however, today they are rather difficult to find as originals.

As previously mentioned some time ago, the simplicity of their banks as to construction and mechanism made them ready targets for recasting by certain individuals. Some of the recasting of the Judd banks was done 25 or more years ago, and others in more recent years.

While in either case the recasts can be judged as such, strange to say the old recasts can be identified, in most cases, as compared to the more recent recasts. The way things are going it's entirely possible that we will hear that an old recast has greater value than a more recent recast.

Actually, for example, there are collectors today who have a certain interest in the old fake banks such as the Carnival, Long May It Wave, and so on. The converted Ferris Wheel Toy is another example. There are two types of this fake originally converted by two different individuals some years ago. The alteration of the Ferris Wheel into a mechanical bank still goes on, so we have recent examples and others with some age.

To conclude this for now and get back to the Judd banks — there is a possible area of understanding of a certain amount of interest in certain of the old fake banks that were created to fool collectors. That is to say they were "original" creations as such, and not just recast banks. This is not to be interpreted as defending them, only to understand the possible interest on the part of several collectors. The writer does not share this interest as he stays strictly with authentic mechanical banks only, and where recasts are concerned he is particularly vehement.

The Judd line of banks form an interesting group and include such mechanicals as the Bucking

Mule (Miniature) (HOBBIES, April, 1963), Bull Dog Standing and Bear And Tree Stump (HOBBIES, March, 1966), Mosque Bank, Dog On Turntable, Gem, several others, and the Butting Goat (Tree Stump), No. 169 and the Boy And Bull Dog, No. 170 in the numerical classification.

The Butting Goat (Figure 1) is an extra nice example of this fine little bank. This particular one has the type finish designated by Judd in their old catalog as "copper bronze" with a black goat. The writer just recently found in another old catalog that the bank was also finished in what Judd called "black and yellow finish." In this case the goat is the yellow referred to.

To operate the bank the goat is manually pulled back on the slide into the position shown in the picture. A coin is then placed on the tree stump holder as shown in photo. A light upward touch on the goat's tail causes him to spring forward butting the coin into the stump. Simple but effective action in an interesting small bank. Coins are removed by turning the force held bolt in the tree stump and taking the bank apart. The head of the bolt is shown in the photograph and gives the appearance of a slot headed screw. This is not the case — it is not a slot but rather a line mark left by the casting.

The Boy And Bull Dog (Figure 2), like the Butting Goat, is rather difficult to find with respect to an original example. Unlike the Butting Goat, however, a few examples of the Boy And Bull Dog exist in bronze. Some of these are original patterns discovered years ago and assembled into working banks. These patterns were used at the time (before assembly) to make a number of recast banks, and these are the recasts that are the most difficult to recognize without close scrutiny. This, of course, due to the fact that an actual pattern was used rather than a production bank. Fortunately they are recognizable for what they are, and of all things cotter pins in some cases were used to hold the boy and dog in place inside the recast bank.

The Boy And Bull Dog shown is done in what Judd called "maroon finish" which is simply a lacquer or japanned type finish. It also came in what they called "ebony and gold" which was black with possible gold highlighting.

To operate the bank a coin is first placed in the provided slot in the center of the bank as shown in the photo. On pulling the lever (shown left in photo) the dog rears back and the boy tilts forward as the coin drops into the bank. Releasing the lever causes the figures to assume the positions as in the picture — ready for another coin. A note of interest is that Judd made a desk paperweight also of cast iron utilizing the same two figures, they did not move, however, and were cast stationary on a flat base.

In closing, the time period of the two banks bears mention, particularly since they apparently were not patented items. Here old catalogs are helpful in establishing the date. They are both in the 1880's and were for sale by C.F. Rice of Chicago in their 1887 catalog.

The World's Banker

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1969

An exceptionally interesting and until recently unknown tin mechanical bank is our choice as No. 171 in the numerical classification. So it is with pleasure that we pass along information on The World's Banker, one of several recent new discoveries in the growing list of known mechanical banks.

The World's Banker is a very attractive fine action bank and has the added interest of the satirical or anti theme. That is to say, like the Bismark Bank (anti-Bismark), Bread Winners (anti-Monopoly), Chinaman In Boat (anti-Chinese), and a few other mechanicals, The World's Banker

depicts John Bull as moving or controlling the world through banking or money control. The action then carries this theme through — money put into the world revolves and falls on into John Bull's stomach. Certainly something when we consider that the bank was made as a child's savings device. Mechanicals with the satirical or anti overtones are of considerable interest, limited in number, and it is exceptional to add one to this unusual group.

The World's Banker was made in Germany, circa 1910 to 1930. We hope with possible future research to be able to pin this down to a more definite date or time period. The globe of the world as used on the bank is surprisingly detailed. Study of this globe has been helpful in ascertaining the presently established time period of the bank. The word "Germany" appears in the South Pacific Ocean area, identifying the bank as having been made in that country. This is discernible in the photo — "Germany" appearing just over the word "South" by the coin slot. So there is no question as to the bank being a German product. However, there are no other markings of any kind and we do not know, and possibly will never know, what concern made the bank.

The bank pictured turned up in Canada a short time ago and is a recent addition to the extensive collection of Edwin H. Mosler, Jr. of New York City. It is in fine all original condition with colors as follows: The rectangular splay sided base is tan, the flag with the black lettering "The World's Banker" thereon is red, white and blue. Tapered side supports holding the flag and globe are black, and the tray just under the globe is green. The globe of the world is an all over blue with continents, countries, islands, and so on in red, yellow, green and dark blue. All lettering on the globe is black. The figure of John Bull wears a black hat with red band. Hands and face are flesh color with red lips, white teeth, black eyes and eyebrows. His hair with long sideburns is also black. Light gray appears along the color line of his white shirt front with black tie. He wears a fine red vest with yellow buttons, and his coat is dark blue with outlining of lapels and so on in black. Completing his apparel are light gray trousers tucked into black boots with yellow cuffs. All this coloring adds up to a bright, very attractive bank.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the slot in the globe. This slot can be seen in the photo. The coin when inserted in the slot is not visible as it drops well into the globe. The top of John Bull's hat is then pressed down and this causes the world to turn toward the figure. In so doing, the coin rolls on its edge from the coin slot in the world onto a slanted tray and on into a coin slot in the figure's stomach and chest. Coins are retained inside John Bull and are removed by means of a flap type coin trap in the back of his coat.

The World's Banker is a very clever, unusual mechanical toy savings device and is a unique bank to have in a collection. In addition to the one pictured, as of this writing two others are now known to exist in private collections. One is in Europe and the other is in the writer's possession.

Since it will be approximately the middle of January 1969 when this will appear, the writer would like to point out something that he considers of considerable interest. This is the fact that the first authentic and then patented mechanical banks, that we are certain of, will be 100 years old. These are the Bureau Bank Type 1 (Serrill Patent Applied For), HOBBIES, November 1967, and then later in January the Bureau Bank Type 2 (Serrill Patent), HOBBIES, May 1967.

Later in the year, December 1969, will mark the 100 year old point for the first cast iron mechanical bank, Halls Excelsior. So we are reaching the "true antique" level for some of the mechanical banks.

Next month or the following month details on another very attractive new find—The Clown And Dog!

Clown and Dog Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1969

Following through with last month's article on the World's Banker, an interesting new find in a mechanical bank, we are again pleased this month to pass along information with respect to another recent discovery, the Clown And Dog Bank, our choice as No. 172 in the numerical classification. This is an exceptionally nice tin bank and the clown motif is particularly desirable. It has fine action as we shall see, quite similar to that of the Monkey And Parrot (HOBBIES, November 1961).

The bank pictured was found in Ohio and is a very recent acquisition of Edwin H. Mosler, Jr. of New York City. He has been quite fortunate in the last few months in acquiring some rather unusual mechanicals, including the one under discussion. Unfortunately, we are again faced with practically no background information concerning the Clown And Dog. There are no markings of any kind on the bank, however, there is a marked similarity in action and construction as compared to the Monkey And Parrot. The same type coin track for the travel of the coin was used on both banks. The arm method for releasing the coin and the movement of the face parts are the same. That is to say the parrot on the Monkey And Parrot has a movable face part that operates on the same basis as the face of the clown on the Clown And Dog. Everything about the Clown And Dog would indicate its having been made by the same concern that manufactured the Monkey And Parrot. This then would mean the bank is a product of Germany, and irrespective of its connection with the Monkey And Parrot, the bank has all the characteristics and earmarks of a German produced tin mechanical bank. As of this writing we would place the bank in the approximate time period of the Monkey And Parrot.

The Clown And Dog shown is in fine original condition and a very bright colorful item. The clown has natural color hands and face with red lips, black eyes, and red hair. He wears a yellow costume with white ruffles around neck and cuffs. His back pocket (where the coin enters) is also white. His sleeves and socks are black and he wears white shoes with red pom-pom thereon. The black duck on his costume completes the coloring of the clown. The dog is white with a brown spot around one of his black eyes. Please note, by the way, that his eyes look up as though watching the action. His right ear is black and his left brown. He has a brown jaw and red protruding tongue. There is a black spot on the left shoulder and right leg. A black collar rounds out the colors on the dog. A red rectangular box for the retention of coins is part of the back of the bank. The front is green and the curving coin track thereon is red. This completes the colors of a very colorful bank.

To operate the bank the clown's right hand is pulled down into position and in so doing the dog's tongue lowers at the same time, or the dog's tongue can be pushed down and the clown's right hand lowers into position. In either case, a coin is placed on the provided section in his right hand. Releasing the tongue causes the clown's hand to snap up causing the coin to travel around the track on into the back pocket of the clown and on into the coin receptacle. When the hand lowers for placement of the coin the forehead of the clown moves up and the lower jaw moves down. This gives the effect of his opening his eyes and mouth. The clown's eye when exposed in this fashion, like those of the dog, looks up. All moving parts, after operating, return automatically to the positions as shown in the photo.

The Clown And Dog is an excellent action bank and the coin plays a good part in the action by doing considerably more than just dropping into the bank. The bank also offers a very appealing subject matter as clowns are favorites of many, including the writer.

New finds like the bank under discussion are always of great interest and stimulation to the writer. It gives all of us something else to look for and this is very healthy. It's interesting to note the unusual tin banks that have turned up within recent times — such as Jolly Joe, The World's Banker, Try Your Weight Scale, Lucky Wheel Money Box, and the Clown And Dog. One wonders how they have remained hidden for the length of time that they have. This is all part and parcel of the great fascination surrounding the collecting of mechanical banks.

Football Bank (Darky and Watermelon)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1969

Some years ago the classification article covering the Football Bank (Darky and Watermelon) appeared in HOBBIES. This was the April 1954 issue and the writer had not actually seen the bank or had the opportunity to examine it personally and so on. Circumstances at the time did not permit his so doing, which is an unusual, exceptional case.

In any event, we are very pleased to say that Mr. W.W. Tudor of Chicago, Illinois, recently acquired a fine example of the Football pictured herewith. The writer through the courtesy of Mr. Tudor has examined this bank carefully and thoroughly. On close scrutiny of this important bank a number of features not covered in the original classification article came to light. Therefore, we are now able to go into thorough accurate detail on the Football and also picture it before and after the excellent action.

The bank shown turned up in the New England area and Mr. Tudor acquired it for his rapidly increasing collection shortly before New Year's 1969.

The Football was designed and then patented by Charles A. Bailey, June 26, 1888, and it ranks as one of his top mechanicals showing his fine design work, great action, and clever subject matter. The bank as produced commercially closely follows the patent and drawings with a refinement or two. This has to do with the base standing on four legs or feet (like some other Bailey banks), and the addition of a lever under the base which lifts the football slightly just before the foot of the figure kicks it. More about this further on.

The Football Bank pictured is in extra fine original paint condition. Gold feet or legs support the overall gray base which has large green leaves and yellow flowers thereon. The sizeable watermelon is green with lighter green definition giving it a realistic appearance. The football and the lever holding same are tan. The hat and shoes of the figure are the same tan as the football, and the hat has a black band. He wears a long blue coat with white shirt, red vest and yellow trousers. The face of the figure has red lips, white teeth, and white eyes with black pupils. This completes the coloring of a very attractive bank.

To operate the bank the right leg of the figure is first pulled back into position as shown in Figure 1. In so doing his arms and head automatically lower into the positions as shown (Figure 1). The football, fastened to a lever or arm, is then moved into position as also shown in Figure 1. A coin is placed in the provided slot in the football and the operating lever in the coat tails of the figure is then pressed. This releases the kicking right leg and foot, engaging the football and propelling it in an arc to the watermelon as shown in Figure 2. The coin drops from the football into the provided slot in the watermelon which is the coin container. As this action takes place the arms and head of the figure move upward to the positions as shown in Figure 2. The action is quite realistic and most attractive.

An explanation of certain mechanical features are of importance. For one, there is a brass lever

under the base, one end of which engages the underside of the lever fastened to the football, and the other end protrudes through a slot in the base between the kicking leg and the football when positioned for kicking. As the foot moves forward to kick the football it first strikes this brass lever pushing it down, which in turn causes the football to lift just before the foot strikes it. This initial momentum relieves the shock of impact and possible snapping of the football from its holding lever. Another mechanical feature has to do with the arms and head of the figure. The arms are connected inside to the kicking leg. As the leg kicks forward the arms are caused to move upward. The movable head is free and not connected to the arms, however, the left hand as it moves into position engages the left cheek of the face pushing the head back and momentum plus balance then cause it to assume the position as in Figure 2. Then as the right leg is again pulled back for operation the arms lower and a part on the arms inside the figure gives the head a slight push causing it to drop forward and down (Figure 1). The operating spring for the right kicking leg goes from the underside of the base up through the leg of the figure where it is fastened to an offset on the right leg.

For removal of coins - the watermelon is in two halves held together and to the base by a single vertically positioned screw. Removing this screw allows separation of the two halves of the watermelon and removal of the watermelon from the base.

In closing, Mr. Tudor is certainly to be congratulated on his acquisition of this fine mechanical bank. It is a great find and enhances his collection considerably. The writer just can't help mentioning that of the known mechanicals he is looking for, the Football Bank (Darky and Watermelon) is the one he desires more than any other on his 'Want List'. This is a tough challenge when, to the best of the writer's knowledge, the last one to turn up prior to the present one was in the 1940's.

One last point of interest - the same unusual washer-nut single unit as used on the Milking Cow holds the figure of the Darky, by his left leg, to the base. This cast washer-nut combination is unique where mechanical banks are concerned and its use on both banks helps to further confirm the writer's opinion attributing the Milking Cow to Bailey as expressed in the HOBBIES article August 1953 covering the Milking Cow.

Indian Chief Bank

Magic Safe Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1969

A rather unique situation exists with respect to our classification article for this, the May issue. We are pleased to pass along information on not one, but two mechanicals, which to the best of the writer's knowledge are new finds. A circumstance of this kind is most unusual and, of course, stimulating in that it gives all collectors of mechanical banks something else to look for. The two banks are the Indian Chief, No. 173 in the numerical classification, and the Magic Safe, No. 174.

In Indian Chief, Figure 1, is an interesting addition to the bust group of mechanicals. It is made of aluminum and in the writer's opinion, at this point, of English manufacture.

As yet the exact date of the bank is not known to the writer. There are no markings, patent information or date of any kind on the bank. However, it has an unusual method of casting inside which was only done in practice quite some years ago. It is held together by a nut and bolt. The nut fits into a cast square section inside the front half of the bank. This box-like section to hold the nut is set up with iron pins, and this method of using iron pins in an aluminum casting has been

obsolete for years. Our good friend George Bauer, in examining the bank with this writer, was kind enough to point out the foregoing.

The Indian Chief was found in New Jersey and is in nice original condition. Colors are as follows: The overall bust is a dark brown. He wears a fine set of feathers in alternate colors of red and blue with white tips. The head band is yellow. His interesting appropriate squinting eyes are white outlined with red, and the pupils are black. The smiling well formed lips are a pink shade and he has white teeth with red lines between. His well defined arched eyebrows are black, and white markings on his face complete the coloring.

The bank operates like most of the bust type. A coin placed in the extended right hand is deposited in the mouth when a lever in the left rear shoulder is depressed. The eyes, however, do not move - they are fixed.

The Indian as a subject matter for mechanical banks is rather limited; the Indian & Bear, Chief Big Moon, and World's Fair (Columbus & Indian). So it is of considerable interest in adding the Indian Chief to the group of Indians and also to the bust group.

The **Magic Safe**, Figures 2 and 3, is a tin bank made in Germany in the period of 1930. It is a rather attractive safe type bank and makes an interesting addition to the limited number forming the safe group of mechanicals.

The bank pictured was found in England and is in nice general condition. The paint is quite good with colors as follows: The overall safe is green with the name and wording on the door in yellow. The English penny is an iridescent red copper color with the figure, date and wording in gold. On top of the safe along the coin slot appears "Pennies Only" in white. On the left side at the bottom are printed instructions in white "To empty unlock, pull out key and open bottom." A white arrow pointing to the back is under these instructions. On the right side of the safe, also at the bottom and all in white, there is a triangle with the word "ANFOE" inside. Along the sides of the triangle appears "D.R.G.M." "DRPa" and at the bottom "Germany." The number 6410 is under the word Germany. It may be that in time this significant mark will at long last lead us to a known manufacturer of mechanical banks in Germany.

The bank operates properly with English pennies only. When inserted in the provided slot the door swings open automatically to position shown in Figure 3. Coins stack up in the tube as also shown in Figure 3 following through with the saying on the door:

*"If you have a mind to see
What great sums in this may be
Put a penny in the slot
And you'll see what you have got"*

Signal Cabin Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1969

One of the fascinating aspects of collecting mechanical banks is the complete lack of continuity or logic with respect to the timing or way in which some of the scarce banks are found or turn up. A classic example of this situation is the Signal Cabin, our choice as No. 175 in the numerical classification. Here we have a very elusive small tin mechanical, quite fragile in its construction, and just non-existent in the vast majority of bank collections. Year after year goes by and none turn

up. Then what happens — in the past year three Signal Cabins have come to light, the one pictured being the most recent. This sure doesn't make much sense, there's no rhyme or reason to it, but it certainly makes it interesting.

The Signal Cabin is one of the less spectacular of the action mechanicals but it does have a certain appeal. This is in connection with its being a tough item to add to a collection (a challenge to the collector) and the subject matter of the bank itself. Many people, collectors and otherwise, have an interest in trains and related items. Toy trains and accessories are widely collected by train buffs. Here in the Signal Cabin we have a sort of double identity, the train angle and the fact it is a mechanical bank. In other words, like the Pistol Bank (HOBBIES, December, 1961) which fits into two collection categories, toy pistols and mechanical banks, the Signal Cabin has the train-mechanical bank dual appeal.

The Signal Cabin shown is in fine all original condition with lithographed colors as follows: The base is black. The lower half of the building is red brick with yellow mortar. Two windows are on each side of the lower half and these are in brown framework with shaded window glass in white. The end of the building by the post has a wooden door representation in brown and the other end has a representation of a brown wooden ladder going to the second floor.

The upper half of the building is yellow woodwork with a long window running the entire length of each side. These large windows are the same colors as those in the lower section. Three windows also appear at the end of the building by the post and two windows and a brown wooden door are at the other end. This door is at the top of the aforementioned ladder. Over the door and just under the roof overhang is the wording "Made In Germany" in brown. The roof is a brighter red than the brickwork and has black shingle representation thereon. The lower half of the post is black and the upper white. The signal flag or semaphore is red, white and black, and the attachment holding the post to the building is red.

The action of the bank is simple but effective. A coin when dropped into the slot in the roof causes the semaphore to drop down, returning automatically to the position as shown in the picture. There is a balanced plate inside the building which is connected by a wire rod to the end of the semaphore. The weight of the coin causes the plate to dip down lowering the semaphore and the coin slides off this plate into the bottom of the building. On the underside of the base there is a very neatly made sliding coin trap for removal of coins.

While sometimes referred to as the Semaphore Bank, the name Signal Cabin has been more generally used for years and fits the bank quite well. As previously mentioned with respect to certain other mechanicals with similar operation, the weight of the coin itself causing the action and the necessity of using a coin to make the bank operate properly are very desirable features.

Still Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1969

With thousands and thousands of still banks known to exist in cast iron, pottery, china, glass, wood, tin, paper, cardboard, leather, and you name it, where does one begin or end in writing an article on them. The writer has resisted many requests over many years to "do something on still banks" mainly for this very reason. Still banks are a vast subject unto themselves, not as complicated as the mechanicals, but we still have a long way to go on the mechanicals and that's what this department is in the main set up to cover. Be that as it may, the timing is such that we feel it is important at this point, due to several factors, to go into some detail on at least a few of the

better cast iron stills.

The factors referred to have to do with the fact that stills have advanced rapidly in recent times in two areas, as collector's items and in price. This is largely due to Hubert B. Whiting and his fine booklet "Old Iron Still Banks." His booklet is something that has long been needed by the many still bank collectors. It covers, as he explains in his book, some 452 banks from his personal collection. They are well pictured in color and, with a few exceptions, are all cast iron.

As far as still banks go, those of cast iron are the most desirable to most collectors. They are naturally closely related to mechanical banks since both are children's savings devices and they were made in the same time period, numbers of them by the same concern who made mechanical banks. There were, however, concerns who made still banks that did not produce mechanicals.

Mr. Whiting has chosen as his method of grading A through E — A being the more common, generally least expensive; and E the rarest, most desirable, and usually most expensive. In the writer's opinion his system of grading works quite well and has accuracy about it.

As previously mentioned, we are going into some detail on a select few of the better cast iron still banks. Please note Figure 1, top of rack, a streetcar is on either side of the large size Statue of Liberty. The streetcar on the left is the rarest having different figures in all the windows. It is an all over gold paint and the name "Main Street" is on each side. This is an E bank. The streetcar on the right does not have the figures in the windows, but is otherwise the same as the other. It is a D bank. We mention the D and E classification here to point out that the one with the figures is more desirable and harder to come by.

The Statue of Liberty was made in at least two sizes. The one pictured is the largest size and most desirable. It is painted an all over silver with various parts in gold. The torch light is red. It is a nicely detailed bank and was made by the Kenton Hardware Company.

On the first shelf, left to right, is the Elephant On Wheels. It is an all over gold with some detail in red. The wheels are nickel plated and also cast iron. The building is an exceptionally nice one in colors of green, red, blue, white and brown. It is well detailed and made by the same concern that produced the mechanicals New Bank and U.S. Bank. It is quite similar in appearance to the New Bank, less policeman, but considerably smaller in size. The last bank on this shelf is known as the Horse With Fly Net. He is painted gold with black eyes and red mouth. This is probably the rarest of all the different horse type still banks.

On the second shelf is the very rare Two Kids Bank. This depicts two goats with their horns locked standing on their rear legs over a stump. The goats are black with red mouth and nostrils. The eyes and horns are silver, as is the tree stump. The base is green with the name in gold. The Bird On Stump is next and he is gold with bronze color legs and eyes. His beak is black and a green four-leaf clover type of foliage is on the front of the stump.

The bottom shelf has the very desirable Mary And Her Lamb. The lamb is cream color with red eyes. Mary wears a green dress under a cream colored jumper with lines at bottom and top in red. Her stockings are also red. Next and last completing the banks on the rack as shown in Figure 1 is the rather early type automobile. It has a coach-like body with short running boards and no fenders. Figures appear in each window. It is red with nickel plated wheels. This is the earliest type and probably most desirable of the automobile still banks.

Figure 2 pictures one of the greatest of all the still banks. This is an effigy of General Butler and depicts him as having a frog's body. It was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., famous for their fine mechanical banks. The bank pictured has been in the writer's possession for years and it is the finest original condition specimen of this bank he has ever seen. The face is flesh color with black hair, moustache and eyes. The back part of his body is dark green

with lighter green arms and legs. The front of the body is yellow and the base is brown. Down his right arm is the wording 'Bonds and Yachts for Me' and along his left arm 'For the Masses'. In his left hand, significantly, he holds a bunch of greenbacks with 'This is \$1,000,000' thereon. Coins are inserted in his mouth. The conventional type of round Stevens coin trap as used on many of their mechanicals is in the base of General Butler.

Last, but not least, in Figure 3 are three fine English banks. Left to right they are the Beehive, County Bank, and the Bears And Beehive. All three have the same overall finish in dark brownish lacquer. The beehive on the Beehive Bank is gold and there is one on the front and back. The County Bank is an excellent detailed casting really finely done and a most attractive building type bank. The Bears And Beehive has the name and beehive in gold. The bears are depicted as stealing honey from the hive.

In conclusion, still banks include in their subject matter many different kinds of people, heads, animals, objects, and buildings. Safes, as such, and registering banks are usually considered in a separate category, although most still bank collectors have some safes and registering banks in their collection. As with mechanicals, originals with no repairs and original paint is important. In still banks one has to watch for recasts and a number have been reproduced and are being sold as such, reproductions.

The 14 still banks pictured are completely original and to date the writer has never seen any of them in recasts.

The Chronometer Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1969

Diverting from mechanicals once again, with specific reasons, we have chosen as our subject matter a rare interesting early registering bank closely related and companion to a very rare mechanical bank. The bank is the Chronometer Bank and it's right on the heels and crowding for the top position of the Gem Bank, (HOBBIES, September, 1968). Its companion, and they make a great pair, is the Time Is Money Bank (HOBBIES, May, 1959). For the first time, to the best of the writer's knowledge, they are pictured here together and similarities in appearance they both share are obvious.

The Chronometer is a very early registering type bank and one of the first of its kind. Unfortunately, we have no knowledge of who designed, possibly patented, or manufactured the bank. This also applies to the Time Is Money as both banks were made by the same concern or parties. Both banks are the same size and configuration utilizing the same casting form or shape. It is the writer's opinion that the Chronometer was manufactured somewhat before the Time Is Money, however, during some period both banks were undoubtedly in production simultaneously.

Fortunately, we are able to supply some factual background concerning the Chronometer thanks to an original old catalog in the writer's possession. This is the Ehrich's Fashion Quarterly, Volume II, No. 4, Winter 1876. On page 54 under the heading "Savings Banks" appears a fine picture of the Chronometer Bank. We quote from the text that appears under the picture:

"This Toy Money Bank has a clockwork arrangement by which every penny deposited registers itself so that a child can always know just how much money the bank contains.

"What the bank book and the clerk are to the large depositor, this automatic registering device is to the child, with the additional charm of a little mystery about the way it is done.

"Price, 75c. By mail, 15c extra."

Pictured under and in smaller size than the Chronometer are four early mechanicals, Hall's Excelsior, Frog On Lattice, Novelty Bank, and Horse Race. Listed, no picture but described, is the Tammany Bank. In any event, with the help of this fine old catalog we know the Chronometer dates in 1876, and possibly earlier.

The Chronometer Bank shown is in fine original condition in all respects including working order and very nice paint. Colors are as follows: The bank is an overall brown lacquer color, the large coin circle with Father Time is silver, and the upper section surrounding the circle is green with gold outlining and decorations. The name Chronometer Bank is gold on a rectangular green background. The bottom base front, completing the coloring, is gold.

The bank at the time of manufacture was made to operate with Indian Head pennies only. As a matter of fact the reverse of an Indian Head penny is depicted on the bank where the lever is held in the hands of Father Time. The penny is inserted in the provided lever and slot located in the top of the bank just to the right of the center peak. The weight of the coin causes the clock-like mechanism to operate. Initially, the upper viewing hole has a large zero and a double zero appears in the lower viewing aperture. The top section goes from 0 to 9 and the lower section from 00 to 90. After 9 pennies are deposited 0 again appears in the upper section on the deposit of the 10th penny. At the same time in the lower section 10 appears. This continues up to 100 pennies when the zero and double zero again appear.

The Chronometer is a very fine desirable early registering bank. It certainly is a great companion to the Time Is Money. The pair of banks in this fashion is unique — one a mechanical and the other a registering, each with totally different mechanism and operation.

Time Lock Savings Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1969

A clock type bank, quite unique among the mechanicals, is of necessity our choice as No. 176 in the numerical classification. The bank is the Time Lock Savings, and we say "of necessity" due to the fact that this is a rather rare bank and actually should be classed with a considerably lower number. This same circumstance has happened before with a few other mechanicals and will most likely happen again at some future time or times — it's not greatly important and there is nothing we can do about it anyway. A Japanese Ball Tossor or a Coasting Bank could turn up tomorrow and we would necessarily place either in our numerical classification series as soon as possible.

The Time Lock Savings shown, Figures 1 and 2, is now in the collection of Edwin H. Mosler, Jr. To the best of the writer's knowledge it is the only known example existing to date. It was found years ago in the Baltimore area, then on to Buffalo where it stayed for some time, from there to Pennsylvania-New Jersey area and then recently to New York City and the Mosler collection.

Other than this we know practically nothing about the bank. That is to say background information is sadly lacking. The writer has never seen it pictured or described in old catalogs. He does not know who designed or manufactured the bank. On the underside of the base of the bank appears "Pat't Appl'd For" in raised letters. This is of no help at all as so far any search of patents, and the writer has done plenty of this, has brought nothing to light that would have reference to or apply to the Time Lock Savings. All we can do is hope that at some future date we can come up with something, as one thing for sure we never give up trying.

The bank shown is in fine original condition. It has an all over nickel plate finish. The face of the clock, Figure 1, is brass and the hand and numerals are black. Above the face appears "Time

Lock" and under the face "Savings Bank." The rear of the bank, Figure 2, shows the winding hole for the clock mechanism and an odd shaped aperture on the upper left. Over this aperture appears "Bank Opens In" and underneath "Days." On the side of the bank, also Figure 2, the automatic opening door is shown. The same photo shows the raised coin slot on top of the bank. The decorative casting of the bank is discernible in both photos and self explanatory.

To operate the bank a dial inside is set for a certain number of days. As example, if it is set for 15 days this number appears in the aforementioned aperture. After 15 days, the clock kept wound and running, of course, the inside mechanism in connection with the clockworks automatically releases the side door and coins may be removed. It is then ready for resetting of the selected number of days.

The Time Lock is a quite unusual bank and the inside mechanism is unusually well made and unique in its operation. Certainly, a number of them must have been made — everything about the bank would indicate this, and it is definitely a commercially produced item. Time alone will tell how many others may have survived.

In any case, the one example has found a good home. Mr. Mosler has recently set up a fine display room for his banks and it does real credit to his ever increasing collection. His interest in varieties has enhanced his collection considerably and is unique in this respect. This phase has also been most helpful to many collectors and certainly enlightening to the writer.

ADDENDA

Shortly after completion of the article on the Time Lock Savings Bank, the writer had the good fortune in being successful in locating the patent papers covering the bank. The patent was issued to G.S. Irdell of Philadelphia, Pa., January 31, 1888. There are two pages of drawings and two full pages of texts describing the mechanism and operation of the bank. The patent mainly stresses the predetermined time period principle for operation of the locking and unlocking mechanism in conjunction with the clock. —F.H.G.

Chein Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1969

J. Chein and Company of Burlington, N.J., are manufacturers of lithographed metal toys, and among the very nice line of toys they produce today are two toy banks, the Globe Bank and the Dime Register Bank. This was not the case, however, some years back as they produced, over a period of time, a fine select group of mechanical banks as well as a number of very interesting still banks. There is no question that the Chein line of banks comprise the largest group of tin banks ever produced in the United States by any individual concern. This is most certainly a mark of distinction for the Chein Company.

First in order is a brief, concise history of the company. It was originally founded by Julius Chein in 1903 and was located in a loft in New York City. Mr. Chein started with a small line of tin toys and this progressed to an increasingly larger line, and around 1910 to 1915 the company moved into a plant in Harrison, N.Y. They remained in Harrison until 1949 when the company was moved to its present location in Burlington, N.J. Their line of tin toys increased over the years and included in more recent times some very interesting mechanical wind-up types, such as the Merry Go Round — Ferris Wheel — Space Ride — Helicopter — and a 15-inch Cabin Cruiser.

So much for their general toys for the present, since our specific interest is in the banks that they made, and more specifically the mechanicals. Pictured herewith is a mint condition group of the

known Chein mechanicals including two varieties, one of the Clown and the other the Monkey. From the top of the rack, left to right — the Clown Bank with key locking coin trap was produced from 1931 into the 40's. He is brightly colored in red, blue, yellow, white, green and black. Press the lever and he sticks out his tongue to receive the coin.

Next is the Elephant Bank, produced in the 1940's and through the 50's, brightly colored in gray, red, blue, yellow, and white. Place coin on trunk, press lever, and trunk moves up sliding coin on inside figure. Last bank on top of rack the other Clown Bank, round coin trap, and name 'Bank' on collar, same coloring as other Clown and same operation. Production on this variety of the original Clown Bank started in 1949.

On the first shelf is the 2nd National Duck Bank which was pictured in color in the 1954 Chein catalog. It was made somewhat before and after this time. This bank is quite desirable showing Mickey and Minnie Mouse, bright colors again in red, yellow, blue, green, white, and brown. Push the knob to the right and Donald sticks out his tongue to receive coin. A lever under Mickey's chin is then pressed and tongue snaps back into bank depositing coin therein.

Middle shelf — Monkey Bank with key lock coin trap and pictured in color in the 1934 Chein catalog. Attractive colors in brown, red, yellow, and black. Drop coin in slot and monkey tips his hat. His right arm tilts forward by weight of coin. Next the Uncle Wiggily Bank, pictured in color in the 1954 Chein catalog. Again, bright, attractive colors in red, yellow, blue, white, pink, orange, green and black. Coin is dropped into slot in back causing right arm to lift carrot to mouth. This is one of the more difficult Chein banks to add to a collection. Last on center shelf, the later Monkey Bank with round coin trap and same coloring and operation as the other Monkey, last pictured in the 1954 Chein catalog.

Last, but certainly not least, as it is the most difficult Chein mechanical bank to obtain is the Church Bank. Pictured in color in the 1954 catalog and made somewhat prior and after this time, the operation is the same as the 2nd National Duck Bank, usual bright coloring in red, blue, orange, white, green, and gray-blue.

Well that's pretty much the story on the Chein mechanicals. Their line of still banks was quite extensive and in 1931 included the Globe, Happy Days Barrel Bank, Scout Bank, Dime Register Bank, and Uncle Sam Register Bank, all these with key lock coin traps. In 1934 their greatest still bank, the Humpty Dumpty, was added to the line, along with the Drum Bank and Uncle Sam Hat Bank. As a matter of fact the 1934 catalog pictures these three in color with the large word "NEW" under each bank.

In 1938 they added the still Church Bank, Log Cabin Bank, and Cash Box Bank. Other still banks are Treasure Chest, 3 Little Pigs, World's Fair, Philadelphia Athletic Baseball (a hard one to find), and Happy Days Cash Register. In 1959 their catalog pictures a Pail Bank with the name 'Prosperity Bank' thereon, along with a new Giant Globe Bank (6-1/2 inches high) and a Dime-A-Day Register Bank. They also made a Roly Poly Bank and several others.

In closing we would like to point out that the name Chein is usually mispronounced. It is pronounced properly as though spelled "chain." And last, but certainly not least, we would like to express our appreciation to R.A. Bekelman, Vice President of Chein, for his time and interest in the writer's behalf in supplying him with factual information concerning the Chein Company and their line of toys and banks.

Modern Mechanical Banks, 1935 to Date

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1969

Following thru with last month's special article on the Chein Company and their line of mechanical banks, we are now completing the situation with respect to mechanicals that fall into the 1935 and on category — the so-called modern mechanical banks made from approximately 1935 to date. With a few mechanicals in this modern category there is a certain amount of cross-over with respect to the date of 1935. That is to say, a few were made slightly prior to this time and after, but still remain in the modern group. This includes a couple of the Chein banks. This situation will undoubtedly change around 1975 or so and certain of the banks now considered modern will be listed with the older or antique group.

Pictured herewith is a reasonably complete collection of modern mechanical banks excluding the Chein banks. Certainly some of the most interesting ones from the standpoint of action are those operated by batteries. A group of these are on the third shelf from the top and include Poverty Pup, Rover, Mule In Barn, Uncle Sam Hat, the Spookhouse, Schmeckenbecker's Schnitzel Bank, Dracula's Bank, The Collector, The Toilet; and on other shelves the two types of the Bowling Bank, Hole In One Bank, Drinker's Savings Bank, The Clown's Bank, Haunted House; and since the picture was taken two others — the 8-Ball Savings Bank and Pack Den Tiger In Den Tank. Ruppert The Talking Pig Bank and Talking Piggy Bank, next to Ruppert third shelf from bottom, are also battery operated. All the above banks have excellent action. There are other banks that utilize batteries such as Bambi, Lamp Post Bank, a TV Bank, and a Juke Box Bank, but these are somewhat simple in their action.

In the modern category there are some interesting wind-up types and these include The Spooky Bank, Skeleton Bank, Coffin Bank, Fingers Bank, Mystery Bank, How To Get Wealthy, Musical Automobile, various musical Swiss Chalets, two types of Musical Dancing Clowns, and the Hippo Bank. The Hippo is one of the writer's favorites. A coin, when placed in position and the lever pulled, is automatically propelled forward into the opening and closing mouth of a hippopotamus.

The space banks provide another interesting group and those include the First Interplanetary Space Bank, several Rocket Banks, Flying Saucer Bank, Satellite Bank, Destination Moon Bank, Strato Bank, Plan-It Bank, Space Launcher, and Rocket Launcher. The space banks at this time have particular appeal since our great accomplishment of the Moon Landing. Some of the earlier space type banks are already hard to come by.

Speaking of modern mechanicals that are as of today quite difficult to add to a collection we would include the Hitler Pig, Dog Coin On Nose, Jack Benny's Bank Vault, The Lone Ranger, Dog House Bank, Mr. Peanut Vending Bank, Bomb-It Bank, Owl With Moving Eyes, Alligator Swallowing Coin, Woodpecker With Sound, and three Chein Banks — The Church, Uncle Wiggily, and 2nd National Duck Bank.

As with the old mechanicals there is a wide variety of subject matter utilized in the action of the modern group of mechanical banks. Now, of course, we have added interest of the numbers of battery operated types and the space group. To this can be added such recent subject matter as the juke box, television, jackpots, gum ball banks, and others.

The earlier types of modern mechanicals that are closer to the 1935 and World War II period are already quite desirable collector's items and will become increasingly so as time goes on. Then too some mechanicals made in the 1950's were not produced in large quantities and these are difficult to find today.

In closing it bears mention that unlike the older mechanical banks that were mainly made in cast iron, the modern group are largely made of either tin or plastic, or in combination. A limited number of the modern mechanicals are made in cast iron, aluminum, and wood. Four of the cast iron mechanicals worthy of mention are the Mary Roebling (Trenton Trust), Birdie Putt, The

Catboat, and the Strike Bank (Bowling). The last three made by Utexiqua more or less for collectors.

Mickey Mouse Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1969

Mickey is a mouse that has become a legend in his own time and as a collector's item he is really turned on. As example, where can one go today and find someone who does not know that original Mickey Mouse watches and clocks are valuable and avidly sought by quite a number of collectors.

Considerable impetus was given to collecting Mickey Mouse items by an article appearing in Life Magazine, October 25, 1968, in celebration of Mickey's 40th birthday. The date of September 19, 1928 is the accepted date of his cartoon beginning or birth since on this date the first Mickey Mouse cartoon, Steamboat Willie, opened at the Colony Theater in New York City. Mickey caught the public's fancy immediately and his popularity grew by leaps and bounds. It was not too long until various products and items appeared on the market all bearing the Mickey Mouse likeness, and in the case of toys in the form of Mickey. In 1933 Ingersoll brought out their famous to be line of Mickey Mouse watches and clocks and in a short time production reached more than 5000 pieces a day. There were four items originally produced, a pocket watch and fob, a wristwatch, an electric clock, and a spring wound clock. All four were animated and these have become the sought for collector's items of today.

The article in Life featured various Mickey Mouse watches and clocks in the fine collection of Bob Lesser and a variety of Mickey Mouse toys belonging to Mel Birnkrant and Ernest Trova.

And now we come to the point of what we consider to be a major breakthrough in Mickey Mouse collectibles, the recent discovery of an early Mickey Mouse mechanical bank. This is a bank the writer never knew existed, and to the best of his knowledge is a new find and the only one known to date. At present we are classifying Mickey as No. 177 in the numerical classification.

The Mickey Mouse mechanical pictured was made in Germany circa 1928 to 1934. It was found recently in England and the writer obtained it from a source there. Mickey as depicted on both front and back of the bank, Figures 1 and 3, is in his earliest form with a white face, black oval eyes with wedge shape hole, high black eyebrows, long tail, short red pants, and so on. This original form of Mickey underwent various changes over the years. His skin was changed to a pink color, his eyes rounded and pupils added. His tail was shortened and pants made longer, his eyebrows eliminated, and so on.

Figure 1 shows Mickey before or after the operation of the bank. In Figure 2 he is ready to receive the coin, and Figure 3 shows the back of the bank. As can be judged by these photos, the bank is in excellent original condition. Colors are as follows: Mickey is black with white face, red tongue, and yellow gloves. His shoes are yellow with very fine red dots. The concertina is red, green, white, and the same red dotted yellow as on his shoes. The curved top of the bank is red. Mickey is doing a dance, most likely a jig, on a green section with the rest of the background in yellow. The tapered base is black. The sides of the bank are red with green and black checkered effect on each edge. The back of the bank, Figure 3, shows Mickey taking your picture. His colors are the same as those described on the front. The camera is black, white, the red dotted yellow, and the bulb held in Mickey's left hand is red. He stands on a red top box with yellow front. The entire background is green. "SMILE PLEASE!" appears at the top and on the front of the box on which

Mickey stands is the following:

If you only pull my ear
You will see my tongue appear
Place a coin upon my tongue
Save your money while you're young

The colors are very bright as described. It all adds up to a most attractive colorful bank.

To operate the bank his right ear is pushed down causing his tongue to protrude and his eyes to rise as shown in Figure 2. A coin is then placed on his tongue and the ear pushed up causing the parts to return to position as shown in Figure 1. The coin drops inside the bank and may be removed by means of a locking coin trap in the underbase.

All in all the Mickey Mouse Bank is a delightful item with double appeal to mechanical bank collectors and to those who have an interest in Mickey Mouse items, an ever increasing group.

Mechanical Bank Activity — 1969

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1970

All of a sudden here it is — the January, 1970, issue of HOBBIES, and while it's still 1969 with a few weeks to go, this would seem to be an appropriate time to review some of the extraordinary activity with respect to mechanical bank collecting that occurred during the year.

Of particular note is the fact that during January, 1969, the finest of the Harlequin Banks known to exist, Figure 1, changed hands. This bank had been privately owned and under wraps for years, and the original paint is in practically mint condition with just a few chips here and there. It is an outstanding specimen, and the photo speaks for itself. In spite of crowding by a few other mechanical banks such as the Old Woman In The Shoe and the Clown, Harlequin & Columbine still maintains its position as the No. 1 cast iron mechanical bank. Over the years the tradition surrounding the bank has stayed right with it and remains unaltered. Only the Freedman's Bank outranks the Harlequin as the top mechanical bank, and this situation most likely will never change.

A Chinaman In Boat turned up during the year — a real fine all original specimen, and this found its way into the Mosler collection. This is a very difficult bank to come by and Mr. Mosler is to be congratulated on this great addition to his excellent collection. He also made a notable new find during 1969 in his acquisition of the Clown & Dog Bank.

Another bank of considerable interest is the Giant In Tower, and one of these in nice original condition wound up in the Tudor collection, a fine addition to an ever increasing fine collection. Mr. Tudor is a diligent, seriously interested collector, he likes his mechanical banks and appreciates them.

Of considerable importance is the fact that the finest known original condition Mikado Bank with bells was sold at auction during the summer of 1969. This particular bank, Figure 2, is known as the Squire Henry Mikado. It had been in his possession for 30 odd years. A series of 10 auctions was held during the past summer and many items from the extensive Squire Henry collection were sold. These included all types of different antiques in great varieties. The Mikado was the outstanding item owned by Squire Henry. A number of mechanical banks and still banks were disposed of during the series of sales. Among the better mechanicals sold were Uncle Remus, Calamity Bank, and the Billy Goat Bank. None of these, of course, rank near the Mikado, and the

extra fine condition of this rare bank is clearly visual in the photo.

Another Try Your Weight Scale turned up, as well as a fine example of the Signal Cabin, both tough tin banks to add to a collection. A Motor Bank, fair condition with the top missing, came to light, as well as another Presto — exterior parts only, all interior operating parts missing. This is the illusion bank where a penny changes into a quarter.

Among new finds during 69 were the World's Banker, Clown & Dog previously mentioned, Indian Chief Bust, Magic Safe, and, of course, Mickey Mouse as per December, 1969, HOBBIES. We should also include the Watch Bank (dime disappears), as while this was privately owned, it was not generally known and it changed hands during the year receiving recognition and exposure.

Another example of the Regina Musical Savings Bank showed up, a Robot, and a near mint Pelican With Rabbit. The excellent original condition of this Pelican With Rabbit makes it worthy of note as evidently the one with the rabbit is the really difficult Pelican to add to a collection.

And last, but certainly not least, we come to Figure 3 and the Tommy Bank. Here again in an outstanding year is an outstanding bank. It is the finest all original Tommy so far known to exist. This bank and the Wimbledon are the two most desirable of the English banks. Together they are a great pair with the soldier in prone shooting position on each. Prior to this Tommy it had been some years since the last one turned up and this bears out the fact that the bank was made in limited quantities during its limited production period.

That about winds up 1969 for now and here's hoping we can all look forward to a great 1970 in mechanical banking.

Watch Bank (Dime Disappears)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1970

An unusual mechanical bank that fits into the "object" group is our choice as No. 178 in the numerical classification. The bank is the Watch Bank (Dime Disappears) and it represents an object — a pocketwatch. Mechanical banks of this nature are rather uncommon and details on certain banks that represent objects and form a group were given in the article on the Safety Locomotive Bank (HOBBIES, September, 1960). Briefly, other mechanicals in the group are the American Bank (Sewing Machine), Camera Bank, Pistol Bank, Safety Locomotive, and now the Watch Bank under present discussion.

Before proceeding further with details on the Watch Bank, a point of possible confusion must be explained. There are two different Watch Banks, both mechanical, both operate with dimes, and each are metal stampings. The other Watch Bank (to be classified in article form at a future date) was detailed in capsule form in HOBBIES, September, 1963. This one is known as the Watch Bank (Metal Stampings) and its operation is comparable to that of the Safety Locomotive. The Watch Bank (Dime Disappears) is, as we shall see, entirely different in its operation.

The Watch Bank shown is in fine original condition and is a fairly recent addition to the collection of Edwin H. Mosler, Jr. So far, to the best of the writer's knowledge, it is the only one known to exist and comes into the category of being a new find. It had been in another party's possession for some time, but remained so with a degree of obscurity. In coming into the possession of Mr. Mosler this situation has changed and the bank can now receive its due recognition.

The bank was patented December 21, 1909, by Francis P. Huyck and John D. Lamson of Toledo, Ohio, and manufactured by their concern, the Lamson-Huyck Watch Company, also of

Toledo. The patent papers consist of a very detailed text and two pages of drawings with 12 diagrams thereon, which is quite exceptional. These drawings cover several different methods of operation of the spring mechanism. The bank as produced closely follows one of these methods. In covering the spring mechanism operation in various forms it was the obvious intent of Messrs. Huyck and Lamson that no one would be able to come up with a patent of similar nature to their bank in its unique operation.

The bank is a nickel plated metal stamping with a brass face and back. Above the hour and minute hand just under the 12 appears "Now Is the Time to Save A Dime," under the hands over the second hand section is "Just Put It Here." Stamped on the second hand dial is "And It Will Disappear." Around the face of the dial, bottom half — "Copyright 1908 By the Lamson-Huyck Watch Company," top half of face — "Patented December 21st 1909 — The Lamson-Huyck Watch Co., Toledo, O." All this detailed lettering is most unusual — it enhances the bank and it's a real pleasure to come across a mechanical that shows the manufacturer, the patent date, and operating instructions all on the bank itself. What the writer is trying to say is when you hold this bank in your hands everything is right there; who made the bank, when it was made, and so on.

Now to the operation of the bank. It must first be taken apart and the spring mechanism is wound by hand. The spiral spring is on a circular wire that conforms to the inside circle of the case and this is revolved a number of times and then fastened in place. The case is then snapped together and the bank is ready for action. A dime when placed on the second hand dial immediately disappears. Actually the mechanism snaps the coin inside the bank so fast that it seems to disappear. Another dime placed in the same fashion disappears immediately, and it will take quite a few dimes before it is necessary to re-wind the spring. This is nice action in a bank, particularly so when it is only the size of an old fashioned pocket watch.

In closing it bears mention that one of the patent diagrams covered a stem wound spring, but as produced the stem is not operable. It is rather apparent that the way the bank is made offered a more sturdy, less troublesome type of construction and operation.

Mosque Bank & Pig In High Chair Bank by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1970

The largest and most imposing of the Judd line of mechanical banks is our choice as No. 179 in the numerical classification. This is known as the Mosque Bank, which name is reasonably descriptive of this finely detailed sizeable building type mechanical bank. As a matter of fact, the Mosque is one of the largest in the building group. We have mentioned in previous articles that the Judd line of mechanicals is unusual as compared to those of other companies. Unusual, too, is the size of this bank as compared to the general line produced by Judd. All of their banks are quite small with the exception of the Mosque — a bank with a rather impressive appearance.

The H. L. Judd Company apparently did not do much in the way of patenting their mechanicals. Like most of their banks, no patent papers have been discovered to date that would apply to the Mosque. Again, however, an old Judd catalog is helpful in placing the date of the bank in the 1880's. With respect to the Judd Company and information concerning same, please see HOBBIES articles for April, 1963, and March, 1966.

The bank shown, Figure 1, is in excellent original condition. Found in New England the bank has been in the writer's collection for years. Like all Judd banks with their several colors of lacquer type finish, the Mosque is an overall brownish color. All the fine lines of the extraordinary casting detail on the building, including the dome, are done in gold. The figure inside the dome and on top

of the dome are finished in the brown lacquer only, and this completes the decoration of the bank.

The operation is effective but simple. The figure inside the dome holding a tray over its head is positioned to the front of the bank (see photo) by means of a crank on the side of the building. A coin is placed on the tray and the crank when turned clockwise causes the figure to move counter-clockwise inside the dome. The figure encounters a section which causes the coin to slide off the tray into a trough dropping inside the building.

It would be interesting to know what the designers of the Mosque Bank had in mind with respect to subject matter. The figure inside the dome is somewhat grotesque and it's difficult to tell just what animal it represents. More than anything else, it would seem to represent a bear — it could be a monkey or a gorilla, however. The figure of the woman on top of the dome holds a wreath in her left hand, possibly representing peace or an award. In any event, it's a rather interesting bank with excellent casting detail and unique appearance.

The often heard term of "Piggy Bank" can seldom be used with reference to mechanical banks. As we reach No. 180 in the numerical classification we have chosen a bank that could possibly be referred to as such — the Pig In High Chair. Curiously enough very few pigs are represented in the old mechanicals. Transversely, in the modern category of mechanicals, there are a number of pig types, including the satiric World War II Hitler Squealing Pig.

The most desirable and outstanding of the mechanical banks to utilize a pig is the rare Bismark Bank (HOBBIES, March, 1956) and then, of course, the popular Paddy And The Pig (HOBBIES, April, 1965). Now we come to a baby pig feeding in a high chair.

The Pig In High Chair was patented August 24, 1897, by Peter Adams of Buffalo, NY., assignor of one-half to Walter Shepard, also of Buffalo. This, of course, would normally have direct connections to the Shepard Hardware Company as being the manufacturer. However, the bank was actually made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., and pictured in various of their catalogs of the period.

The Pig In High Chair, Figure 2, is in practically mint condition. It is an overall nickel plate finish and this is the only way this bank was made — never painted in colors.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the tray and a lever in the back of the high chair is pressed down. This causes the tray to lift up and the coin slides therefrom on into the open mouth of the pig. As this action takes place the tongue of the pig also moves upward allowing the coin to drop inside.

The Pig In High Chair leaves some collectors rather 'cold.' They do not particularly like it, but must have one in their collection. Actually it's sort of a "cute" type bank, very well made, and somewhat attractive.

Frog Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1970

The Frog Bank, our choice as Number 181 in the numerical classification, with its rather unusual patent background, is a somewhat long awaited occasion to outline in article form. This bank could be called the "daddy" of Patent No. 262,361, that is to say this is the original bank as diagrammed and outlined in James H. Bowen's patent of August 8, 1882.

Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., was the inventor and designer of many fine mechanical banks including the Frog Bank. The unique situation with respect to his Patent 262,361 is the fact that it also covers the Reclining Chinaman, HOBBIES, December, 1959; Elephant And Three Clowns On

Tub, HOBBIES, October, 1963; and Paddy And The Pig, HOBBIES, April, 1965. These four mechanical banks, while completely different in appearance, have in common similar mechanical action and mechanism. While the Frog Bank is the original bank covered in the patent by Bowen, the other three were also protected by the same patent under the mechanics and operating method of parts.

The patent itself consists of three drawings of the bank and two and one half pages of text. In part, the text covers "a toy savings bank composed of a receptacle for money made either in whole or in part in the image of a living being." Further on in the text it is pointed out that "the accompanying plate of drawings illustrates the toy savings bank with its parts constructed and arranged in connection with the images of two frogs." Very specific detail is then given as to the various operating parts including a sound producing mechanism, which in this case represented the croaking of frogs. After complete description of working parts, the text then restates that "the bank described may be made in the image of living beings of any kind and character or any other desired shape." Also the fact was stated that "all sound producing devices may be dispensed with." This statement in the text conforms to the bank as actually made in that there is no sound mechanism present. All in all, it is a very interesting patent to study as Bowen was quite careful to make sure that the details would not just cover a Frog Bank, but would in fact be applicable to other banks. The three drawings, with the exception of the sound producing mechanism, are identical to the actual bank as produced. To complete the patent phase, it is well to point out that the Frog Bank, which would automatically include the other three, also was covered by an English patent dated July 28, 1882. This date, as well as the United States patent date August 8, 1882, appears on the base plates of the four banks. One exception is the Frog Bank; some were made prior to the granting of the patent and these had inscribed on the base "Pat Apld For."

The Frog Bank was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., as were the Reclining Chinaman, Elephant And Three Clowns On Tub, and Paddy And The Pig.

The bank pictured is in excellent original condition with no repairs. Particular mention of "no repairs" is due to the fact that the kicking leg of the frog lying on his back is a very vulnerable part and more often than not broken or missing. The bank shown has the inscription "Pat Apld For" on the base and is then, of course, the earliest type of this bank obtainable. It is most unusual to find this early type in the fine original paint condition as is the one in the photo. Colors are as follows: The large frog is a mottled green and brown with light yellow-green underside. The inside of his mouth is red and he has brown glass eyes with black pupils. The smaller frog is a dark green with light yellow-green underside, a red mouth, and black glass eyes outlined in yellow. The base is an all over light green with blue-green representations of grass and foliage.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the coin rest (see photo) held by the front legs of the frog lying on its back. The lever in back of the large frog is then pressed down. This causes the movable leg of the prone frog to kick the coin from its rest as the large frog opens his mouth to receive it. Releasing the lever causes the moving parts to return automatically to the positions as shown in the picture.

The Frog Bank is a most attractive item. This coupled with its very good action makes it a must to have in a collection of mechanical banks.

The Freedman's Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1970

Other than having the finest most complete collection of the different mechanical banks, one of the great drives or aims, if not the greatest, of most collectors of the mechanicals is to own a Freedman's Bank. The possession of this bank not only puts one in a very select small group, but it also establishes a collection on its way to being among the top ten. No other single mechanical bank can quite touch the achievement of the acquisition of a Freedman's. Right on its heels, of course, is the Clown, Harlequin & Columbine, however, the Freedman's Bank has maintained its position as the No. 1 mechanical for years and it's highly improbable that it will ever be anything but No. 1.

The rare once in a lifetime occasion of a Freedman's being added to an individual's collection is a real noteworthy event and it is with great interest we inform our readers that W. W. Tudor has recently acquired a fine example of this outstanding bank. It is now the fifth one known to exist in a privately owned collection of mechanical banks. The bank had been under wraps for years and Mr. Tudor is certainly to be congratulated on his acquisition of this greatest of mechanicals.

A brief review of the other four Freedman's that exist in private collections is in order at this point. First was the one found by the late William F. Ferguson in a second hand shop in Connecticut. It was minus all clothing and the head and frame of the figure were also missing. This bank has been restored in fairly recent years and is now in the Perelman collection. The second Freedman's was found by the late Andrew Emerine. It turned up in Mexico City with some needed restoration and minus the original clothing. This was remedied by Mr. Emerine and the bank is now in the Mosler collection. The third Freedman's Bank turned up in Pottstown and was acquired by John D. Meyer, one of the pioneer collectors. It is in nice condition but the table has no legs and there are no legs on the figure. The fourth Freedman's was obtained by Mark Haber from its original owner, Dudley L. Vaill of Winston, Conn. The bank had been carefully kept by Mr. Vaill in its fine condition over the years and it is the only known completely original specimen-even to having the paper label of the store where it was originally purchased. The bank was given to Mr. Vaill by an uncle as a Christmas present in either 1879 or 1880. It remained in his possession until May 1944, at which time Mr. Haber obtained the bank from him. This excellent example was added to the writer's collection some 20 odd years ago.

Now we come to Mr. Tudor's Freedman's Bank, the fifth one to be in a collection of mechanical banks. It is pictured in Figure 1 before and after the operation. Figure 2 shows the bank during the action. The action, as has been described before (HOBBIES, October, 1951), is really something and it is the most intricate of all the mechanicals. This Freedman's like the one owned by Mr. Mosler, has a hair like wig on the head of the figure. Please see HOBBIES, October 1951 and October 1965, for photos of the writer's bank without the wig. Jerome Secor, the manufacturer of the bank, from all evidence obtainable made it first without a wig and then some with wigs. It is also interesting to note that the paper name section on the front of the bank shown is a larger size than the one on the writer's bank, both are unquestionably original.

The clothes of the figure on the bank pictured are not original, although they were made a number of years ago. Some other minor restoration was necessary, as well as adjustment of the involved clockwork mechanism. The bank is now in perfect original working order going through all the proper operations and movements. It's a fine example of the greatest of the mechanicals.

In possessing the Freedman's Mr. Tudor is joining two unusual groups. First, as previously mentioned, are those owning one. Then come those who have a Freedman's and a Harlequin in their respective collections. The writer has always been pleased in being first to accomplish this-then a few years ago Mr. Perelman made it No. 2, and now Mr. Tudor is No. 3. A step forward for Mr. Tudor - a giant step forward for his collection.

Treasure Chest Music Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1970

Musical banks, that is mechanical banks that actually play music rather than just ring bells, form a particularly desirable group of mechanicals. We have covered a number of the banks comprising this group in past articles, and those include the Woodpecker Bank (Tin), Little Jocko Musical Bank (Tin), The Regina Musical Savings Bank, Musical Saving Bank (Wood Easel), Musical Saving Bank (Tin), and the Musical Savings Bank (Wood House). The Woodpecker and Little Jocko operated by means of a hand crank and when this is turned the music plays, as well as other mechanical action. The others mentioned play music only, however, they have windup mechanisms and operate only upon insertion of a coin. As we reach No. 182 in the numerical classification we have chosen a bank that operates on this principle – the music plays when a coin is inserted in the slot. This bank is the Treasure Chest Music Bank and it plays not one, but two tunes when a coin is deposited.

The Treasure Chest was designed and patented by Oscar H. Brasier of Tacoma, Washington, January 7, 1930. The Patent consists of two pages of drawings and two pages of text. The two pages of text outline the working mechanism with accuracy and the fact that the insertion of a coin is necessary to operate the mechanism for a predetermined period of time. The other pages consist of eight diagrams of the bank with particular detail of the working parts. These drawings do not resemble the bank as actually produced, this with respect to its appearance. However, on March 31, 1930, Mr. Brasier applied for a design patent and the four drawings covering the design are exactly like the bank as produced. The design patent was issued to Mr. Brasier on September 30, 1930. It is not too often we encounter a bank with both regular and design patents. This rather unusual circumstance was undoubtedly due to the fact that in his original patent Mr. Brasier did not cover the outward appearance of the bank and then at a later date decided on the Treasure Chest form and subsequently to protect this configuration.

The bank was manufactured by the Faith Manufacturing Company of Chicago, Illinois.

The Treasure Chest Music Bank shown is in exceptionally fine original condition and has been in the writer's possession for years. It is an all over gold color and the straps and hinges are a slightly different darker color gold. Except for the locking coin trap, the entire bottom is covered with green felt which is original, and all these banks were produced in this fashion. A sturdy Yale Junior lock was utilized in the rectangular shape coin trap. The trap has the patent number 1,742,984 along the top and just underneath appears 'O. H. Brasier Tacoma, Wash.' all in raised letters. On the front and back of the inside of the bank also in raised letters appears 'Faith Mfg. Co. Chicago, ILL.' It bears mention that the bank is quite heavy for its size and made of a white type of metal in apparent die casting form. It is a firm, well constructed bank.

To operate the bank the spring operated mechanism is first wound by means of a winding lever in the back. A coin is then dropped into the slot in the top of the chest. This trips the mechanical works and the music starts to play. In a short period the coin can be heard dropping, by means of the mechanism, on inside the bank. Two different pieces are played by the cylinder type music box and then the works stop automatically. The bank is now ready for another coin and more music.

The musical group of the mechanicals adds an interesting dimension in sound to the normal action and sight effect of the regular type mechanical banks. In closing it bears to mention that another Regina Musical Savings Bank turned up recently. It is in very fine condition and one of the difficult ones to obtain in the musical group.

A Turtle Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1970

There may well be some interesting things happening during the remainder of 1970 with respect to mechanical banks, but certainly it will be difficult to top the month of May. A Turtle Bank, the last one turned up around 30 years ago, was found in Iowa and went with reasonable promptness into one of the larger collections.

The Turtle is a bank that has one of those "things" about it. It is very rare, no great action, but an extremely desirable item. Its entire background is intriguing since the other three companion banks, The Frog On Rock, Owl, and Rabbit In Cabbage, are quite common. These three were made in large quantities by Kilgore Manufacturing Company, but the Turtle was a very limited production bank. The writer was never able to find out just how many were made, only that it was produced in small quantity. Actually at the time the writer was checking this out with the Kilgore officials, early 1940's, they had no record of the exact number of Turtles they had manufactured.

The present Turtle, the fourth one known to exist, was found by Joe Olimpio, whose wife has the Alladin Antiques in Sanbornville, N.H. Joe purchased the bank from Mr. & Mrs. Jack Martens of Sheldon, Ia. They in turn had obtained the bank in an estate sale some 10 years ago and subsequently realizing it had some value kept it in a safe deposit box until the time it passed on into Mr. Olimpio's possession. The bank was first put up for offers, Joe feeling this was the fairest way to dispose of it, and a few days ago at the time of this writing the Turtle found a permanent home in the collection of Leon Perelman. The situation wound itself down to being between two collectors, Lee being one of them. He now joins a select group of those possessing a Turtle Bank. The others are: The Hegarty Turtle from the late Dr. Arthur E. Corby collection; the Tudor Turtle from the Lederer collection and prior to this the late James C. Jones; the Griffith Turtle from the late Leon Cameto collection and prior to this the late William F. Ferguson. These three Turtles are in fine mint condition, completely original, and all alike in every detail.

Now we come to an interesting point. The Perelman Turtle pictured is also in fine original mint condition, however, it is a variety. It does not have the protective plate covering the working mechanism inside the bank. It was made this way and undoubtedly Kilgore found that coins could interfere with the mechanism and operation of the bank and thus added the protective cast iron cover plate. On the three Turtle Banks that are alike there is a hole on each side of the shell and a hole under the head. The cover plate fits inside into these holes to hold it in place. The bank under discussion does not have the holes on each side of the shell — it does have a slot hole under the head and one over the head into which the mechanism fits.

There are two other visible slight differences (the writer uses "visible" since, while he is sure the four banks have the same operating mechanism, it cannot be seen in three of them as it is covered by the plate). The pin or rivet holding the pictured bank together is peened over on both ends, although like the other three it would seem to have threads in one end screwed into the right half. The paint is slightly different on the one shown. The head of the Turtle does not have the five white stripes on top as do the other three. Also the base has more brown color to it than green, and there are orange markings on the blue on each side of the head.

The fact this Turtle is a variety is of considerable interest. It compares with the Kilgore Owl Bank. This comes in two types, rather than varieties, one with a slot in the head and the more common type with the slot in the book. Undoubtedly Kilgore made this change for the same reason, coins were more apt to interfere with the operating mechanism in one than the other.

In closing, Mr. Perelman is to be congratulated on his acquisition of the rare Turtle Bank. It has always been and will always be one of the writer's favorite banks in his own collection.

The Four Pelicans

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1970

It's certainly time that we clarify the situation with respect to the Pelican Bank and the four types of this bank that we now know exist.

Some years ago when a Pelican Bank was mentioned, automatically one thought of the Pelican with the figure of the man thumbing his nose. Over a period of years other Pelicans turned up with a different type figure in the bill. And for a while it didn't seem to matter much which Pelican was which or what type Pelican a person owned or had in his collection.

Things have changed and today it does matter which Pelican a collector has, and as a matter of fact really to round out a collection he should have or try to have all four different types since they are considered different banks, not variations.

Figure 1 shows three of the Pelican Banks, left to right they are Type 1, Man Thumbing Nose – Type 2, Mammy – and Type 3, Arab. Figure 2 shows Type 4, Rabbit, with a repeat of the Type 3, Arab. These four Pelican Banks are from the writer's collection and all are in practically mint condition, completely original, with no repairs. Figure 3 shows a close-up of the Rabbit for better detail. This is considered to be the rarest and most desirable. The Type 4, Rabbit in Figure 3 is in the collection of Edwin H. Mosler, Jr. and the Rabbit is painted a brown color, rather than white as is the writer's example as shown in Figure 2.

Referring back to Figure 1 and the Pelican Type 1, Man Thumbing Nose, the figure has flesh color face and hand, white teeth and eyes, red mouth, black eyebrows and pupils, red cap, and yellow shoulders. Type 2, Mammy has brown face, red lips, with white teeth, white eyes with black pupils, white duster cap, yellow collar, and red shoulders. Type 3, Arab has off-white face, red mouth, black pupils and eyebrows, red band on forehead, and red shoulders. The Type 4, Rabbit in Figure 2 is white with red ears, eyes and mouth, black lines on nose and eyes, and a black bow-like ribbon around his head by his ears.

For further information concerning the Pelican Bank, who made it, and so on, please refer to HOBBIES, December, 1964. At the time of this article the writer felt that the then known Pelican types were of equal desirability. However, in the years that have elapsed it seems quite definite that the Rabbit is the rarest. Next in line the Arab and Mammy.

In closing, it is running through the writer's mind if he is really finished with the Pelicans. Will a fifth type turn up? Did Trenton Lock & Hardware Company make another type with a different figure in the pouch? It's possible as we don't have much information on Trenton Lock & Hardware, particularly with respect to the Pelican and how many types they made.

Thrifty Tom's Jigger Bank & Dapper Dan Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1970

Two tin banks that have the same action, a figure doing a jig, are chosen at this time for the numerical classification. Thrifty Tom's Jigger Bank is No. 183 and Dapper Dan No. 184. Both banks have lively action on the insertion of a coin and this action is sustained for a reasonable length of time. Once again we have an entirely different type of animation than on any of the other

mechanical banks covered so far. However this type action, jiggling was used in numbers of toys over the years and now and then it is still utilized.

Thrifty Tom, Figure 1, has all the information we need right on the bottom of the bank. In large black letters appears — "Thrifty Tom's Jigger Bank," "Trademark," under this "The Ferdinand Strauss Corp New York U.S.A." Under this "U.S. Pat" May 24, 1910, October 15, 1918. Other Patents Pending." It's a sheer pleasure to have a mechanical bank with all the information right on the bank itself.

Figure 2 shows the top of the box-like platform on which Thrifty Tom does his jig. It is of considerable interest since it depicts different U.S. coins this is lithographed in color as is the rest of the bank.

Colors are as follows: The base is predominantly light blue, the decorative front section with the name has a black background and lettering is in yellow, white and blue. The beehive is also yellow and blue. The back of the bank is the same as the front. Thrifty Tom has a brown hat with wide yellow brim, green jacket, red vest, brown polka dot tie, and white and light blue shirt. His trousers are yellow with black, and his shoes are black. All in all a very colorful bank.

To operate, the bank is first wound by means of a key. Then a coin is dropped into the provided slot in the base, Figure 2. Tom goes into a very lively jig and continues until the mechanism is unwound. Coins are removed by means of a door-like section in one end of the bank.

Dapper Dan, Figure 3, with some differences is pretty much the same story as Thrifty Tom. It too has all the information we need on the bottom of the bank. This is as follows: "Dapper Dan," under this "Coon Jigger Bank," under this "The Jiggling Banker." Then in red letters, "Licensed and Manufactured under 'Letters Patent' U.S. Pat. May 24, 1910 other Patents pending." The manufacturer is then shown "Louis Marx & Co., 200 5th Ave., New York, U.S.A." The Marx trademark appears on the bottom.

This bank is also lithographed in color. The base is black with the front and back in colors. As shown in Figure 3, various people are around an entrance-way. The background is red, the entrance yellow, signs on each side of the entrance are white with red and black lettering. The people are in black, white and red. Dapper Dan has a button on his right coat front with the wording "Porter" in red and yellow. He wears a blue hat, red jacket with yellow vest, white shirt, and red polka dot tie. His trousers are blue with white stripes. Like Thrifty Tom, this is another colorful bank.

Dapper Dan operates as Thrifty Tom and coins are removed in the same manner. Both banks, as mentioned previously, are sort of different than the other mechanicals and they make a very interesting pair to have in a collection.

Thrifty Tom is from the Mosler collection and Dapper Dan the writer's collection.

Bureau or Chest Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1970

The Bureau or Chest Bank made of wood, walnut in this case, is our choice as No. 185 in the numerical classification. It has the usual false bottom arrangement in the top drawer and there are many varieties of this bank. The one pictured is particularly well made, has attractive stenciling, and dates in the 1880 to 1895 period. This bank and its many variations all stem from the basic principle of the Serrill's Patent Bureau of 1869 covered by article from HOBBIES, May, 1967.

The two type Serrill Patent Bureaus, Give Me A Penny, and Freedmen's Bureau are the four most desirable of the Bureau banks. They are identifiable by name and have definite backgrounds

as commercially produced banks. They are more interesting and Give Me A Penny has, for example, added action with the monkey coming out of the top of the chest. (See HOBBIES for May, June and November, 1967, for information on the four banks).

Now back to the Bureau or Chest Bank under discussion. It is not, as are some, a one of a kind handmade item. We are not concerned with one of a kind handmade items. They are not collectible as authentic commercially produced mechanical banks. The Bureau under discussion has evidence of being commercially produced and so do some others similar to it. These vary as to size, shape, and type of wood, but all have the same basic principle of operation and the individual collector can take his choice as to preference. Or if he cares to, he can collect varieties of bureaus, although they are not considered different banks or "type" banks. It is necessary to have only one in a collection of mechanical banks unless the individual chooses to do otherwise. The Bureau Bank pictured and others similar to it have no names thereon, no dates, and no particular background information. And it is difficult with some of them to judge their respective age or if they were commercially produced. In either case where doubt exists we do not recognize them as collectible items in a collection of old mechanical banks.

The bank pictured is in very fine original condition and in the collection of Edwin H. Mosler, Jr. The drawer is pulled open, a coin placed in the drawer, and the drawer closed, when re-opened the coin has disappeared.

Mechanical banks based on this operation have been made for many years, one hundred to date. Various materials, other than wood, have been used. These include tin, cast iron, brass, and in recent times bakelite and plastic. Most all have the same general appearance representing a bureau or chest of drawers. Some have the top drawer only, such as the one under discussion, but in all cases it is the top drawer that operates with the false bottom.

Since the Serrill Patent Bureau is the first known mechanical bank patented in the United States there is no question that the operation originated in our country at least so far as factual records would indicate. This is a point of interest since in recent years most varieties of the Bureau or Chest have turned up in England, rather than in the United States. It has been quite difficult to judge some of these English varieties, particularly as to age and then as to their being a handmade one of a kind bank or not. To repeat, where doubt in judging any one bank it is left in doubtful category until such time that it may be judged otherwise.

Popeye Knockout Bank

"Joe Socko" Novelty Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1970

Two unusual prizefighting or boxing banks made of heavy tin or light sheet iron, as you choose, are our choice to be classified at this time. Popeye is No. 186 and Joe Socko No. 187 in the numerical classification. Both banks represent cartoon characters and this, of course, adds to their interest and appeal. This is particularly true with respect to Popeye. Like Mickey Mouse the Popeye toys of the earliest vintage, late 1920's and 30's, have become quite desirable as collector's items. There has as yet not been too much activity with respect to Joe Palooka as compared to Mickey Mouse and Popeye. The bank Joe Socko is actually Joe Palooka and apparently for some reason or other the name Joe Palooka could not be used.

Each bank well represents the character of the cartoon figure as portrayed in the comic strip sections of various newspapers throughout the country. Joe Palooka was a boxer of the highest type

and principle, and Popeye was frequently fighting with some big rough tough character usually rescuing Olive Oyl from the rough individual's clutches.

The two banks shown are from the writer's collection and are in excellent original condition. They were made by a company called Straits of Detroit, Mich. Popeye has the following wording and dates along the bottom back side of the bank "Straits Mfg. Co., Detroit U.S.A." "Copyright 1919-29-33-35 King Syndicate, Inc." Appearing on the front is "Pat. App. For "American Made Toys For American Girls and Boys." Joe Socko has the following on the front "Joe Socko" Novelty Bank (Pat. App. For)," along the side and back "American Made Toys For American Girls and Boys." Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. by Straits Corp. Detroit U.S.A. Apparently Straits changed their name from manufacturing company to a corporation at some point during the productions of the two banks.

Colors on Popeye are as follows: The bottom and top of the base is blue. The sides are yellow with drawings and wording in red. The two figures, Popeye and his opponent, are a nickel or cadmium type finish. On the front of the bank base appears Wimpy eating a hamburger with a large plate of hamburgers beside him, to his right is a pail of spinach. Popeye is saying "Git out ya swab I needs fresh air." On the back appears his opponent knocked out of the ring and seeing stars, Olive Oyl in the audience says "Oh Popeye you hit him," next is Alice the Goon and she has her musical notes in the caption. Going around to the side of the bank the Sea Hag is saying "The rat," and finally Eugene The Jeep is calling out "Jeep Jeep." An attractive bank with good lithography. And, by the way, on Popeye's opponent's trunks there appears a skull and cross-bones.

Colors on Joe Socko are the same blue top and bottom on the base. The sides of the base are red with black figures and wording thereon. On the front are heads of many people and "I got dough on Joe," "Hurray for "Joe Socko." On the back are more people and "Geeve it to heem," "Sock him Socko," then "Geeve heem the woiks." On both ends are additional people's heads and "On the button Joe." "He can't take it," "Yeh," "Joe," "Giv'm the 1-2.' The figures of Joe Socko and his opponent have the same finish as Popeye.

Both banks operate in the same fashion. The figure of Popeye is turned clockwise to the position as shown in Figure 1. When a coin is deposited in the front top slot Popeye whirls around swinging his right arm and glove knocking his opponent down causing him to fall over backward. Reset both figures for further operation.

Figure 1 shows the front view of both banks with Popeye on the left. Figures 2 also shows both banks rear view with Popeye on the right.

In closing it bears mention that there is a Popeye still bank just like the base of the mechanical. There are no figures on the top and the coin slot is to the right center in the top. All lithography work is the same as on the base of the mechanical.

Clown Bank – Tin Little Joe Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1970

Two English mechanicals, one tin, the other cast iron, are chosen at this time for the numerical classification. The tin Clown Bank is No. 188 and the cast iron Little Joe No. 189. The Clown Bank is a face or head type somewhat similar to the German made Jolly Joe and Minstrel, both of which are also tin. Little Joe is a member of the bust group and the English excelled in this type bank. They produced more different bust type mechanicals than any other country, and these include

some very interesting banks such as Little Moe, Clown Bust, Little Hi-Hat, Starkies Movable Ears, and, among others, the only two female busts known, Dinah (in two forms).

The Clown Bank, Figure 1, is in fine original condition. It has been in the writer's collection for many years and was found in England. As yet, unfortunately, we do not have much background information. We do not know who manufactured the bank nor its exact period of manufacture. We do know, of course, that it was made in England as on the bottom of the bank appears "British Made."

It is a very colorful bank. The face is white with brown eyes and eyebrows. The mouth, tongue, nose and face markings are all red. He has a yellow collar with red line and the name bank is also red. Below the face are green and red circles outlined in white on a blue background, the word "Press" with the arrow is yellow. The sides and curved top of the bank, formed in one piece, are red. The back of the bank is very decorative in red, green, blue and yellow with numbers of circles outlined in white and one large multi-colored circle. The locking coin trap which is on the back is maroon.

To operate the bank the lever is pressed down and the clown sticks his tongue out. A coin is placed on the tongue and when the lever is released it snaps back inside his mouth taking the coin with it. The bank has a very unusual feature in its operation that has not been covered by any of the mechanicals so far classified. A rubber band, not a spring, was used to retract the tongue. This is quite unique.

Little Joe, Figure 2 is in practically mint condition and was obtained by the writer some years ago in England. We know just about all there is to know with respect to this bank. It was one of the Beatrice line of mechanical banks made by John Harper & Company, Ltd. It was featured in at least two of their catalogs in 1924 and 1931. So the bank was made over a period of years, possibly somewhat prior to 1924, but not long after 1931 which was the last Harper catalog to show the bank.

Little Joe is painted in the following colors: His face and hand are black, he has white eyes with brown pupils having black centers. Lips and tongue are red and teeth are white. He wears a red shirt or jacket with a white collar and blue tie. On the back appears "Little Joe Bank" in raised letters. These letters are gold.

To operate place coin on extended hand and press lever in left rear shoulder. This causes his right hand to lift, depositing the coin in his mouth. His tongue recedes and his eyes roll upward. Releasing the lever causes all parts to return to position as in Figure 2.

Little Joe is definitely a companion bank to Little Hi-Hat, HOBBIES, November, 1968. The two busts are practically identical with exception of the names and the high hat. They make a very nice pair.

Dinah

Dinah & 'Husband' (Aluminum)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1971

Three English mechanicals, one cast iron, the other two unusually fine aluminum castings, are our choice in the numerical classification at this particular time. The cast iron Dinah is No. 190, and Dinah and her "husband" are No. 191 and 192 respectively. As mentioned in previous articles, the bust type of banks are mechanicals in which the English excelled and the three under present discussion are fine examples of their technique. While a great number of mechanical banks (in

total) were made in England, the different kinds and types were comparatively few as compared to those made in the United States. Just why the bust type was so popular with the English manufacturers is a factor of interest and apparently it was just a matter that they sold better than other types and were more popular with the public than others.

The cast iron Dinah, Figure 1, was made by John Harper & Company and entered in the Reg. of Designs on March 29, 1911. On March 11, 1916, the copyright was extended for five years, and on October 5, 1920, it was extended for the third period of five years. So the Dinah Bank was made for quite a few years and in quantity. This is borne out by the exact circumstances that have happened to the bank as a collector's item. Going back to the earlier days of collecting mechanicals the Dinah sold at a rather high price on a comparative basis with the other mechanicals. Today the bank is worth little more than it was then due to the fact that numbers of them have turned up over the years and its rarity has been considerably lessened. This is in no way disparaging this fine bank, it's simply "that's the way it is."

The bank shown is in fine original condition. It was found in England and has been in the writer's possession for some years. Colors are as follows: Her face, hair, left forearm and hand are black, she has red tongue and lips with white teeth, her eyes are white with tan pupils, the pupils are outlined with black and have black centers. She wears silver earrings, necklace and brooch. A yellow dress completes the coloring on this attractive bank. On the back appears the name Dinah in large capital block letters. The pictured Dinah, by the way, is the one with the so-called "flowing sleeve." This is the earlier, somewhat more desirable type. A variation of the bank comes with the regular Jolly Nigger type arm and was made by Harper in this fashion. This is a later version and apparently it was more economical and practical to produce, utilizing the same arm as on some of the other Harper bust banks. It bears mention that the Harper Dinah Bank came with other color dresses, brown and blue for example, and they are original this way.

Operation of the bank is the same as with most all the bust type. A coin is first placed in the extended hand. On depressing the lever in the rear left shoulder the arm lifts dropping the coin in the mouth. At the same time the tongue recedes and the eyes roll upward. Release the lever and all parts return to position as shown in Figure 1.

Now to the aluminum Dinah and her "husband" as shown in Figure 2. To begin with these are both unusually well made aluminum castings, particularly as compared to some of the Starkie aluminum banks, for example. Unfortunately we have not as yet been able to find out what concern made these two banks. On first glance one would think that this Dinah is the same as in Figure 1. This is not the case. Various features of the casting are quite different – the earrings, eyes, mouth, and hair to mention a few, plus the fact that it is slightly smaller overall. Also there is no name on the back of the bank, and it is put together quite differently than any of the other bust type banks. Two screws are at the ears which is routine, however, two screws are also in the lower back on each side. This is unusual as a center screw in the back was the common practice to hold bust type banks together. Dinah's "husband" is made in the same fashion.

The Dinah Bank shown in Figure 2 is in fine condition and colors are as follows: Face, hair, forearm and hand are black, she has red tongue, lips, and white teeth. Her eyes are white with brown pupils having black centers. Earrings and necklace are gold. She wears a red dress with white collar. The entire back half of the figure is black.

The operation of this Dinah Bank is the same as the other with one exception, the eyes roll down instead of up.

Dinah's husband, Figure 2, is the typical Jolly Nigger type bust with some variations in the casting as compared to others of its kind. He is slightly smaller overall than the usual negro bust in

the larger sizes. There is no name on the back and he is put together quite differently with the two screws on each side of the back.

This bank, like Dinah, is in fine original condition with colors as follows: Face, hair and hand are black; he has red lips and tongue with white teeth; eyes are white with brown pupils having black centers. His shirt is red with white collar and cuff. He wears a blue tie and the two buttons on the shirt front are also blue. Unlike his companion Dinah, the back half is painted in colors with the red shirt, white collar and black hair. It bears mention that this bank and the companion Dinah are painted in the exact same colors, that is, the same type and shades of paint were used on both.

Operation of the bank is the same with the eyes rolling downward.

For the record this bank is known as Jolly Nigger (Aluminum) (Ear and Side Screws). He and Dinah (Aluminum) make an attractive pair as "husband" and "wife."

Rabbit (Standing, Large)

Rabbit (Standing, Small)

Elephant (Made in Canada)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1971

Two American mechanical banks and one Canadian, the first in the series articles, are our present choice in the numerical classification. The Rabbit (Standing, Large) is No. 193, Rabbit (Standing, Small) No. 194, and Elephant (Made In Canada) No. 195. Let's immediately clear up one point of possible confusion with respect to these two Rabbits and the names used to define them. Are they "standing" or not is the question that will come to most minds. Well actually they are sitting upright, however, the word "standing" has been used for so many years to describe their position that there just doesn't seem to be enough justification to change the names. In this case letting well enough alone is the best answer and most collectors are accustomed to using the present names from habit, if nothing else.

The larger Rabbit is somewhat harder to come by than the smaller one. More often than not one or both ears of the large Rabbit are broken off and missing. It is not easy to find one of these in nice original condition with no repairs. The one pictured, Figure 1, is in fine original condition. The rectangular base is green and inscribed on the underside is "Pat Apl'd For." The figure of the rabbit is gold and the ball-like object he holds is silver. The coin is placed in the provided slot in this silver ball as shown in Figure 1. On depressing the tail the ears move forward and the coin automatically drops inside the figure.

The smaller Rabbit, also Figure 1, is in practically mint condition. The round base is a brown japanned type finish and on the underside is inscribed "Patented." The figure of the rabbit in this case is washed bronze type finish, rather than painted. The ball is gold and the inside of his ears are also painted gold. The smaller Rabbit operates exactly the same as the large one.

It is not yet factually known, to the best of the writer's knowledge, who manufactured the two Rabbits. The writer is inclined to attribute them to the H. L. Judd Company. Many similarities exist between these two Rabbits and mechanicals we know were made by Judd. For more information on Judd and banks they made please see HOBBIES, January, 1969, article and references therein.

Figure 2 shows the Elephant (Made in Canada). This is a rather unique bank and only due to the fact it was made in Canada. Note in Figure 2 the wording in raised letters shows very plainly on the left rear leg. Being of Canadian manufacture means everything to this particular Elephant Bank as

mechanicals that were made in Canada are few and far between. True a couple of our mechanical banks (United States) were protected by patents in Canada, but they were not manufactured there.

The bank shown is in nice original condition. It is quite similar in configuration to one that was made in the United States. It is an overall gold finish. Decorations are in red and silver, and the raised letters of the name are silver. He has red eyes, silver ball ends on the tusks, and the tip of his trunk is red. The operation of the bank is simplicity itself, inserting the coin in the provided slot on top causes the trunk to move. That's all there is, there isn't any more. Definitely mechanical, however, and a coin is necessary to cause the action.

The bank has reasonably well been established as a product of the old Albion Iron Works of Victoria, British Columbia. They were in business for the approximate period of 1869 to 1950. The bank is said to have been manufactured around the turn of the century.

The Elephant (Made In Canada) has every evidence of being an elusive mechanical to add to a collection. It just doesn't seem to be around and was possibly made in limited quantity.

Mechanical Bank Activity 1970

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1971

The results of our first year into the 70's from the standpoint of mechanical banks and the collecting of these colorful toy savings devices warrants a summary of some of the highlights of this most interesting year.

To begin with, certainly one of the most outstanding events had to do with the fifth known Freedman's Bank and its addition to one of the more extensive collections. The acquisition of a Freedman's Bank is a noteworthy occasion and this is one of those "once in a lifetime" occurrences. Each collector of mechanical banks has his own "thing" as to which are his favorites and so on and there is no question as to this being each individual's privilege. However, the almost unobtainable Freedman's is the goal and dream of every seriously interested collector of mechanical banks — and few have been privileged to attain this goal. It's doubtful that this situation will ever change, no other mechanical would seem to have the charisma to the extent of that which surrounds the Freedman's. In any case, for details on this, one of the outstanding happenings of 1970, please see HOBBIES article, May 1970.

Who would then believe that a Turtle Bank (Figure 1) would put in its appearance in this same year, and of all things a variety as compared to the others known. Almost unbelievable, but just another fascinating aspect of this most intriguing hobby. This Turtle Bank is a real nice example and unusually enough it had been kept in a safe deposit box for some years prior to its finding its way into a collection of mechanical banks. Sort of a coincidence that the Turtle and the Freedman's were both individually rather obscurely held items, not in a collection as such in either case — and now they have each found good homes. For details on this Turtle please refer to July 1970 HOBBIES article.

Regina Musical Savings Banks just don't turn up very often, they are quite difficult to come by. So what happens during our first year into the 70's — no less than three Reginas come to light. It has always been of interest to the writer that the Regina Savings Bank is such a difficult item to add to a collection. It certainly is large and oversize as we generally accept a savings bank to be. One just doesn't visualize an item of this size as a bank, but mechanical bank it is and a good one with fine authentic detailed background. The writer, by the way, was quite fortunate recently in obtaining a copy of the page from an original Regina catalog that pictures and describes the

Musical Savings Bank. The Regina Company manufactured great varieties and numbers of music boxes, many of which were coin operated, apparently, however, their musical bank was produced in limited quantity and for a limited time, not over a period of years.

Prior to 1970, to the best of the writer's knowledge, only one Time Lock Savings Bank (Figure 2) was known to be in a collection. Well that's no longer the case, at least one other turned up during the year. It is in pretty good original shape but needs some careful work and adjustment to get it in proper working order. This is another of those sort of offbeat tough banks to find — its greatest interest generally lies with the more advanced type collector.

We can also mark off another Clown Bank (Bust). This is one of the more difficult English banks to find and the number known to exist can be counted on the fingers of one hand. This example is all original with the paint, however, in just fair condition. While we are on the subject of a bust type bank, it bears mention that a Darcy Bust (Tin) also turned up in '70 and in fine mint condition.

Not too long ago we mentioned the Signal Cabin Bank (Tin), its scarcity, the fact that none had turned up for years, and then that a couple of examples showed up in a short space of time. Well in 1970 three more went into collections, one of which was a variety with no sliding coin trap. All three were in nice original condition and this is exceptional as the Signal Cabin is an extremely fragile bank.

Other mechanicals during the year worthy of mention include the 10c Adding Bank — two Watch Banks (Dime Disappears), an interesting fine action item and difficult to find (Figure 3) — also two Robot Banks, which are of English manufacture — as well as four Football Banks, also English.

Now we come to another rare bank, the Sentry, and this is a great tin bank with exceptionally attractive appearance and action. Three of these, believe it or not, all in nice original condition went into private collections during 1970.

Finally, last but far from least, we come to the Sambo Bank, a mechanical with years of uncertainty as far as the writer has been concerned. Well late in 1970, December to be exact, not one, but two absolutely original Sambo Banks came to light. Each had been in rather small collections with some degree of obscurity. The Sambo Bank will be detailed in article form in the near future. In closing 1970 with the Sambo Bank — it was a great interesting year with fine mechanical bank activity.

Artillery Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1971

A really nice fort and cannon type bank is our choice as No. 196 in the numerical classification. This bank is the well known Artillery Bank, a fine product of, unusually enough, two different companies. It was first manufactured by Shepard Hardware of Buffalo, N.Y. and then J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn.

The Artillery was patented May 31, 1892, quoting the patent, "Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams of Buffalo, N.Y., said Adams assignor to Walter J. Shepard, of same place." This is a design patent and, of course, covered the design or configuration of the bank. The drawing in the patent is practically identical to the bank as actually produced. It might be well to point out that while this bank is in the fort and cannon group of banks, the structure into which the cannon fires the coin is not technically a fort as such.

The patent refers to this structure as being a "wall or tower." In any case, the bank was first manufactured by the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo. At a later date Stevens took over the manufacture of certain Shepard mechanical banks including the Artillery, which they made for the duration of the years it was manufactured. It is not known for certain if both companies made the Artillery simultaneously for any given period of time. Evidence would indicate that when Stevens started making the Artillery, Shepard stopped. We do know that Stevens made the bank long after Shepard had ceased its manufacture.

Although the Artillery Banks look identical as made by each company, there is a very easy way to tell them apart. The Shepard Artillery has their often used rectangular shaped key lock coin trap in the base. The Stevens Artillery has their usual round pressure held type coin trap. Other than this, Stevens used the same patterns as utilized by Shepard. As a matter of fact, on the coin section base of the Stevens Artillery the rectangular outline of the Shepard coin section is plainly visible. Stevens simply filled in this section on the patterns making it adaptable to the usage of their round trap. This coin trap section is underneath the structure into which the coins are fired or propelled by the cannon.

The bank shown is a fine original condition example of the Stevens Artillery. This bank has the Southern painted type soldier with the gray hat and trousers. It more commonly comes with the Northern type soldier with blue hat and trousers. Complete colors on the bank pictured are as follows: The stone-like building is a dark japanned type finish with the square raised top in gold. The base section in front of the building represents grass and it is green with highlighting of yellow and red. The name "Artillery Bank" is in old block lettering. By the way, the section of the base on which the building is situated is the same green as the rest of the base. The side sections of the cannon or mortar are brown. At this point it might be well to point out that the cannon is actually a mortar. In any case, it is painted in gold, as is the large hammer and trigger that operates the bank. The figure of the soldier wears a gray hat with black visor edged in white and a yellow band around the back. He has flesh color hands and face with a large black moustache. He wears a red jacket with dark blue collar and straps are yellow. His trousers are gray and shoes black. His black hair finishes the coloring of the bank.

To operate the Artillery the large hammer of the mortar is pulled down into position. In so doing the right arm of the soldier is caused to move to a horizontal position. A coin is then placed inside the barrel of the mortar. The lever, located by the letter "K" in the name, is then pressed down, the soldier's arm drops signaling the firing of the mortar, the hammer snaps up and strikes the coin propelling it into the provided opening in the building. The coin seldom misses its mark. The mortar and hammer are made in such fashion to accommodate a paper firing cap so that a loud noise can accompany the action.

On the underside of the base plate of the bank in the section beneath the soldier and mortar is inscribed "Pat. May 31, 1892." In closing, it also bears mention that the Artillery, as well as painted in colors, was made with an electrolytic bronze finish and a nickel plated finish. Both these type finishes, bronze or nickel, are the earliest of the Artillery Banks and only made by Shepard. All that the writer has seen so far in nickel or bronze have the rectangular locking coin trap as used by Shepard. It is possible that Stevens could have made the bank with a nickel finish, but, to the best of the writer's knowledge, this is not the case. Stevens did not produce the bank with a bronze finish. They only finished it in colors from all evidence of their old catalogs, specimens known to exist, and so on.

English Bust Banks — Part I

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1971

Over a number of years the writer has mentioned at appropriate times the fact that the English excelled in their production of the bust type mechanical bank. That is to say, by intent or not, the English made many more kinds and types of the bust mechanicals than were made in the United States or anywhere else for that matter. There has never seemed to be any particular reason or explanation as to why such a variety of bust banks were made in England — that is beyond the point that they must have enjoyed a certain amount of popularity and certainly the manufacturers would not have made so many different types had they not sold to the public at least to a varying degree.

Well there is a possible logical explanation and this has to do with the size of the English coins, particularly the penny. (This is prior, of course, to the recent change in English coinage.) Bust banks were of a type that readily adapted to the use of the quite large English coins. Specifically the hand of the bank could easily be of the necessary size to hold the oversize coins and, of course, the mouth made a naturally wide coin slot to receive bigger coins. In other words, bust banks by their very nature worked well with large size coins and this is not the case with the great majority of the mechanical banks. We must keep in mind that in the era of mechanical bank production and popularity the penny as a coin meant something and was something to save. Other than registering banks which used various denomination coins, the mechanical banks produced were in the vast majority made to operate with a penny. So it is quite logical that the bust form of bank was a natural for the use of the English penny, and since most banks in the period were commonly called penny banks this is what they were mainly made for — to save pennies.

To substantiate this point let us digress for a moment to another kind of English bank or two that operate more properly with the large English penny. Take for example the Giant In Tower, a fine rare English mechanical. It obviously works best with the most action when the English penny is used. Our penny moves or tilts the figure of the Giant only slightly forward when inserted in the slot. The English penny, however, gives the figure a good tilt — considerably more action. Now to the Football Bank, another fine English action savings device. The stump in front of the kicking figure was made in such fashion that it holds the English penny perfectly and works best with this coin. In other words the stump was actually made to hold the large penny. Finally, at this time, The World's Banker, a great tin mechanical made in Germany for the British trade, will conclude our point. This bank requires the use of the large English penny. The American penny does not come out the globe properly when the hat of John Bull is depressed. The weight and size of the large penny is a necessary part of the operation of this bank.

Well so much of that for now and let's get back to the bust bank and classify several of the very good English types. Figure 1 shows a fine bust known as the Jolly Nigger (Aluminum) String Tie and is No. 197 in the numerical classification. We do not know the company that made this bank, but we do know it is English and well made. It operates as do most of the bust banks and the eyes roll upward. Colors are as follows: The head is black as well as the hand. Large eyes are white with red pupils and black centers. The tongue is red and lips white. He wears a red jacket with large white collar and white cuffs. His string tie and buttons are blue. There are no markings on the bank and his back is plain with no name thereon. The bank shown is in extra fine original condition throughout and was found in England.

Our choice as No. 198 is the Jolly Nigger Fixed Eyes, Figure 2. Again this bank operates as do

most bust banks with the one exception — the eyes do not move. They are part of the head casting and simply cast in the face. Actually while there is less action it makes the bank more unusual and is somewhat harder to find. Again face and hand are black, eyes are white with large brown pupils and large black centers. Lips and tongue are red with white teeth. His jacket is red with white collar. He wears a blue tie and the buttons are also blue. There's no name on the bank and no markings of any kind. Three diamond shaped holes are in the back of the bust and four diamond shaped holes are around a round center hole in the back of the head. The bank shown is in very nice condition, all original, and was found in England. It was made by Chamberlain & Hill, Ltd., for some years prior to and through the 1920's.

English Bust Banks — Part II

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1971

Figure 3, the Jolly Nigger High Hat, is our choice as No. 199 in the numerical classification. The operation is the same as the others discussed and as is the usual case the eyes move, rolling up. Face and hand are black, eyes are white with brown pupils having black centers, tongue and lips are red with white teeth. He wears a red jacket having gold buttons and blue ties. His top hat is white with a black band. The name "Jolly Nigger Bank" appears on the back in gold letters. The moving right arm on this bank is a sheet iron metal stamping. It was also made with a cast iron arm. The bank shown is in practically mint condition and was found in England. It was made by John Harper & Company, Ltd., and was shown in various of their catalogs from the 1890's through the 1920's.

Well we reach sort of a milestone when we go to Figure 4 and the Jolly Nigger Butterfly Tie, No. 200 in the classification. Later this year the writer will have written for HOBBIES for 20 years, which doesn't seem possible, and now we come to the 200th bank in the classification articles, and believe it or not we still have lots to cover. Down to business and back to Figure 4. Like the others discussed, the action is the same and the eyes roll up. We are specific about eye direction since some bust banks have the eyes moving down. The colors on this bank are identical to the Jolly Nigger High Hat. As a matter of fact it is the same bank without the hat, has the same name on the back, and also made by Harper during the like period.

The bank shown is in excellent all original condition and was found in England. The name Butterfly Tie was originally used years ago to describe this bank in order to differentiate it from our regular Jolly Nigger as made by Stevens and Shepard. The name has served its purpose well and is completely appropriate as to a definite difference in the type ties without too much noticeable difference otherwise. Of course the date always appears along with the name on the Stevens and Shepard Jolly Niggers. No dates are on the High Hat or Butterfly Tie.

It bears mention that there are variations in some of the above discussed banks. As example, the High Hat and the Butterfly Tie come with a cast iron right arm and a metal stamping right arm. Either case is o.k. and they are the same banks. These are not "type" banks. However, for those interested in knowing about varieties and for that matter anyone interested in mechanical banks it is well to point this out.

A word of caution exists where the High Hat is concerned. Any bank with the name and date on the back, which would be Stevens or Shepard, and having a hat is not a completely original bank. The hat has been added since neither Stevens nor Shepard made a Jolly Nigger with a hat. Only the English type came originally with a high hat. There are other known cases where different type hats have been put on both Stevens and Shepard bust banks. None of these have any authenticity about

them and none as yet have been proven original in this fashion. To repeat, there is no indication or proof of any kind that Stevens or Shepard ever made anything but regular Jolly Nigger banks with no hats whatsoever. And the American made Jolly Nigger only comes in two variations — one Stevens and one Shepard. The differences here are just in the base plates, nothing else. It is true that Shepard painted some of their production banks with jackets in blue instead of red.

In closing, however, in the case of the English bust banks there are quite a number of variations involved and there are other different types that will appear in the series articles at a future date. Some of these we are still trying to authenticate as to age and then the manufacturer if possible. A few of the English bust banks have been difficult with respect to placing them with certainty in the so called antique category. Actually, of course, pre-1935 and, therefore, collectible as an old bank.

Punch and Judy Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1971

A most attractive bank having great traditional subject matter with special appeal to children is our choice as No. 201 in the numerical classification. The bank is Punch And Judy and it accurately depicts this most well known of all puppet shows.

Puppetry as such would seem to have possible origins as far back as ancient Egypt, then possibly on into Fifth Century B.C. Greece. In any case, by the 17th Century puppets were everywhere and welcomed as an inexpensive form of theatre. The rise of Punch typifies the popularity of this form of entertainment. He started in Naples as Polcinella, a name derived from "Little Chicken." This name seemed to fit the strutting, squawking, and uncertain courage, as well as the lovable qualities, of the character. By 1650 he reached Paris, and by 1660 he appeared in London to be called Punchinello, or Punch. In 1742 there was an advertised performance by "Punch and Joan, his wife" in Philadelphia, Pa. About 1825 the name of Punch's spouse became Judy. Then around the 1870's numbers of Punch and Judy men came from England to the United States. These showmen used a portable booth and operated Punch on their right hand and Judy, as well as other characters, on their left hand. In the last quarter of the 19th Century Punch and Judy were familiar practically to every American.

The show embodied a domestic tragedy followed by a supernatural retribution, all of which was treated in a broadly farcical manner. Punch himself is represented as short and thick-set with an immense hump on his back, a wide mouth, long chin and hooked nose. His wife Judy is in some respects his counterpart. And to sum this up for now, there was also the dog Toby and other characters, Punch and Judy being the main characters, of course.

The Punch And Judy Bank is an accurate overall representation of both the type booth or stage and the two puppets involved. Unusually enough the bank was covered in the United States by a regular patent and a design patent. The regular patent was issued July 15, 1884 to C. G. Shepard and Peter Adams, Jr., assignor to Walter J. Shepard, all of Buffalo, N.Y.

There are eight figure drawings with this patent, and while they resemble the bank and some of its operation, the drawings differ considerably in appearance as compared to the actual bank. The drawings look more like a house with regular roof, windows, door, and so on. Well on July 22, 1884, a design patent was issued to the same men of the same city. The design drawing is practically identical to the bank itself.

Obviously Shepard and Adams had a change of heart as to the appearance of the bank and the design patent specifically refers to the frame or casing as representing a miniature stage. Bearing

this out is the fact that the regular patent, while issued July 15, 1884, was originally filed October 30, 1883. The design patent was filed May 28, 1884, some seven months later, allowing ample time for the change in the drawing, and, of course, this is the reason there are two different patents, the design patent covering the bank as actually produced. It was made by the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo, N.Y.

Two banks are shown in the photo for two reasons. Please note the different type lettering in the name on each, also the bank on the left is shown before or after operation and the bank on the right shows the figures set to operate. Since there is a slight preference for the larger and more decorative type lettering on the bank shown on the left, the bank on the right is considered a variety. There is another variety of the bank with slightly different lettering in the name, but similar to the bank shown on the right. All three have comparable value in like condition.

The two banks shown are in unusually fine original condition with no repairs and excellent paint. Colors are basically the same on each bank and are as follows:

The front edging and entire back of the bank in red, the name section and bottom front section yellow, bank pictured left has a dark blue line over the name which continues down each side of the drapes. The drapes are blue with orange ties at the top and on each side drape. The sunburst corners in the section under the figures are maroon and blue with red dots, as is the center decoration. In back of the figures is representation of drapery in blue and dark blue. This is on a tan background, and the two tassels are yellow and red. Both Punch and Judy have red and yellow hats. Judy has pink flesh tone face and hand, her white eyes have brown and black pupils, and her lips are red. Her hair is black, as are her eyebrows. She wears a blue dress with yellow buttons and white collar with blue stripes. The tray she holds in her hand is black. Punch has a more cream color face and hand. He holds a brown club in his hand. His eyes, mouth, eyebrows, and hair are the same colors as Judy's. He wears a red jacket, also with white collar having blue stripes. It is, as one can readily visualize, a very colorful bank.

To operate the bank the figures are first placed into position by pulling the lever shown on the bank on the right. This causes Judy to turn clockwise bringing the tray forward. At the same time Punch moves back and brings the club into striking position. The lever when pulled out locks into position. A coin is then placed on the tray. Another lever is underneath the one that is pulled out. When this lever is pressed down Judy turns dropping the coin inside the bank and Punch darts forward snapping the club down toward Judy. The figures are now in the position as in the bank on the left (see cover).

In closing it bears mention that the bottom base plate is quite interesting. It has a japanned type finish and the following is cast in raised letters: "Buffalo, N.Y. — U.S.A." "Patd in U.S. July 15 '84 and July 22 '84" "Rd in England. No. 10423." So the bank is rather an exceptional case having a regular and design patent in the United States and registered in England at the Patent Office.

Memorial Money Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1971

The Bicentennial in 1976 will be here for all practical purposes before we know it. The new 1971 Pennsylvania license plates are a considerable departure from past rather drab ones, having the Liberty Bell thereon and targeting in on the 1976 celebration (the present plates being used for the next five years). A recent trip to Philadelphia would indicate considerable contention between the pros and cons as to this important event and its center of activity centered in Philadelphia.

Logically, of course, there just isn't any place more apropos than the city of Philadelphia. And this takes us back to the 1876 Centennial held in this city. It was quite an event and many mementos of the occasion were made in commemoration. These included various banks and toys which are of considerable interest today.

A number of still banks were made in cast iron in the shape of the Liberty Bell and other fine stills in the form of Independence Hall. However, to the best of the writer's knowledge, only one truly mechanical bank was produced to commemorate this important point in American History. And this bank is the Memorial Money Bank, No. 202 in the numerical classification.

The bank shown is in unusually good original condition and has been in the writer's collection for quite a few years. It is a difficult item to find in good original paint, transfers legible, the eagle on top with original wings, and the original paper label on the bottom. The bank pictured has these points in its favor.

As to color, the base, bell, and eagle on top are gold. The base of the eagle has a blue and red stripe around it. A transfer in black lettering on the Liberty Bell reads "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land Unto All The Inhabitants Thereof. Lev. XXV, 10. By order of the Assembly of the Province of Penna. for the State House in the city of Philadelphia. Pass and Stow, Philad, MDCCLIII." The bell rests on a square decorative base with a circular top. In the circle appears an eagle and flags in colors. Around and in the circle gold lettering is as follows: "The Liberty Bell 1776 – Proclaim Liberty Throughout The Land. Let It Proclaim Peace and Unity in 1876." Then around the circle are red stars and a blue line. In each corner of the top of the base is an eagle. On the four sides of the base are the following buildings pictured by transfers – "Memorial Hall," "Machinery Hall," "Horticultural Hall," and "Main Exhibition Building." Under these pictures on the four sides is a red stripe and a green stripe.

The paper label on the under base is of considerable interest. First appears in large letters "Memorial Money Bank," and under this "1876." We now quote the text as follows:

"The Bell mounted on the Money Bank, represents the old Liberty Bell which was originally cast in England in 1751, at a cost of one hundred pounds sterling; was ordered to be of two thousand pounds weight and to have the following inscription: 'By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania for the State House in the City of Philadelphia 1752.' Also 'Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land to the inhabitants thereof.'

"Before the Bell was properly hung it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper to try the sound, and it was recast in this country by Pass & Stow of this city who were compelled to remix the metal, as the original mixture was found to be too brittle; it was finished and hung in June 1753; but the most important event in its history is that upon Monday, the 8th of July, 1776, at twelve o'clock noon, it rang to proclaim the Birth of a Nation upon the basis that all men are born free and equal.

"In 1777, at the time the American forces were compelled to evacuate Philadelphia this Bell together with Christ Church Chimes were removed to Allentown, to prevent them from being melted into Cannon by the English; at the close of the war, it was returned to the City, and continued in constant use until 1827 when it was replaced by the present Bell. The Bell was broken in ringing for a fire one murky morning, but it had done its work, and for many years occupied a place among the relics in the Independence Chamber. In 1872 it was placed where it now is in the vestibule of the State House, upon its original timbers."

One can readily see that the paper label in relation to this bank has considerable importance. It's just not the directions on how to operate the bank or something of that nature as is the usual case where a paper label is concerned. Please understand any and all original paper labels are important, but in the case of the Memorial Money Bank even more so.

The operation of the bank is quite simple. A coin is pushed into the partially opened front slot. The coin pushes back a spring positioned lever, which, when the coin is forced into the bank, causes the lever to spring forward ringing a dome shaped bell suspended inside the Liberty Bell.

Sambo Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1971

The writer is always particularly pleased when the occasion arises whereby he generally can inform readers of a new find in a mechanical bank. Well the Sambo Bank, necessarily No. 203 in the numerical classification at this point, comes into this category. Why Sambo has remained a more or less undiscovered bank for so long is just another one of those intriguing things that happens in connection with collecting mechanical banks. It could, of course, have something to do with the fact that from the front at least, see Figure 1, it certainly looks like Little Joe (HOBBIES, December, 1970) and, therefore, in a cursory fashion it could be mistaken for Little Joe. This does not explain why the bank has remained, generally speaking, undiscovered for so long a time. In any case, Sambo, like Little Joe, is of English manufacture and in the same time period.

The writer would like to explain that he has always had serious doubts as to there being an authentic Sambo Bank. This, however, was with respect to the larger size bust bank. He, over the years, has seen several Sambo Banks in the larger size, all with questionable authenticity. Certainly, it is possible that such a bank exists, but if it does, the writer has never seen one that could be considered an authentic original. There is no question, however, as to the authenticity of the smaller size Sambo Bank presently under discussion. Everything about it is right.

The bank shown, Figure 1 front view, Figure 2 back view, is in extra nice original condition. Colors are as follows: Face, hair and hand are black, lips and tongue are red, and teeth white. His white eyes have tan-orange pupils with black outlining and black centers. His shirt is red with yellow buttons and blue tie. Most important, see Figure 2, is the name 'Sambo Bank' in large yellow block letters. It is quite unique to have the name in a painted color other than gold.

The operation of the bank is the same as the majority of the bust type. Place a coin in the extended right hand, press the rear shoulder lever, and the hand lifts to the mouth. The coin slides therein as the tongue recedes and the eyes roll upward.

Normally the Sambo Bank would be attributed to John Harper, however, it has a very significant marking cast inside the back half. The letters 'W.&.H.H.J.LD.' appears incised in the casting. Research, still going on, has not as yet revealed what these letters represent with respect to the company that made the bank. Please understand that a possible connection with Harper has not been ruled out.

Now to the differences between Sambo and Little Joe. Of course, the outstanding difference is in the names. Second is the hand. Sambo has a separate thumb casting fastened to the hand, while Little Joe has a single unit hand casting including the thumb. The tongue of Little Joe is flat, while Sambo's tongue is full and well rounded. The base plate on Little Joe is cast iron with no perforations. Sambo has an unusual cast iron plate with the front half only perforated. Then, of course, there are the initials cast inside Sambo which do not appear in Little Joe. Other than these noted differences, the banks are practically identical.

Sambo makes an interesting addition to the bust group of mechanicals, particularly so when grouped with Little Joe, Little Moe, and Little Hi-Hat, quite a combination of related (English)

banks.

In closing the writer would like to bring attention to the fact that as of August 15, 1971, we have another mechanical bank that is in the 100-year-old category. This is the Horse Race Bank patented by John Hall, August 15, 1871, and made by J. & E. Stevens Company. For details on the bank see HOBBIES, March, 1959.

Watch Bank (metal stamping)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1971

A bank just about the size of a regular pocket watch is our choice as No. 204 in the numerical classification. This is the Watch Bank (Metal Stamping) and it's a nice little toy savings device that has particular interest with respect to the considerable amount of wording on both the front and back of the case. The front, as shown on the photo, represents the face of a watch. The hands are set at 8 minutes past 10. Between the hands appears "Chase Poverty". Under the hands is inscribed "Check Waste Create Thrift". Below this in the second hand circle is "Copyright Patent Apd'." In the middle of the circle in a diamond-shaped section appears "C.L. Russell, N.Y." An inverted horseshoe is inscribed on the back of the case in the center. Around this appears the following wording: "Holds 25 Dimes' — 'Just Fill It' — 'It Will Open' — 'Then Relock'."

In the normal routine this is an unusual amount of information to have appear on a bank and as it turned out most helpful in establishing its time period or age. Even more helpful, the writer had a real stroke of luck when in operating the bank, using 25 dimes, it automatically opened and inside was the original paper label with the following instructions:

"How to Relock This Bank

"Place the lip, on the bottom of this case, in the slot, in the other case, under the figure 5; bring the two cases together so that the rings over the figure 12 meet; press, and the bank is locked again.

**"Charles Lee Russell,
199 Cook St.
Brooklyn, New York"**

The writer contacted the Brooklyn Public Library and through the use of their excellent microfilm files of the Brooklyn telephone book a listing for "Russell, C. L. Metal Novlts. 199 Cook Street' was found in the 1920-21 edition. The 1923 edition has this listing — "Russell, Chas. L., Mfr. Savings Banks, 199 Cook." This same listing ran through 1925 and that was the end of it. So the Watch Bank (Metal Stamping) was made sometime during the period of 1920 to 1925. Just to double check, the writer then reviewed possible patentees by the name of Russell in a time period well before 1920 and well after 1925, but no Charles Lee Russell with a bank patent was found.

The bank shown is in extra fine original condition with the nickel plate finish in nice shape. It is, as stated in its chosen name, a well made metal stamping. It is definitely in the mechanical category with spring mechanism inside, opening automatically, and so on. The operating mechanism is the same principle as the Safety Locomotive, HOBBIES, September, 1960, and somewhat comparable to the operation of the Thrifty Animal Bank.

The bank under discussion makes an unusually nice companion piece to the Watch Bank (Dime

Disappears), HOBBIES, February, 1970. They make an interesting pair of banks to have in a collection.

The Two Standing Bear Banks by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1971

Recently a select group of items from the Kenton Hardware Company's sample room became available and this proved to be a rather informative occasion with interest centered on the items themselves. These included some still banks, toy cannon, and in particular a mechanical bank. The bank is the Bear Standing (Slot in Chest) and is pictured on the left in the photo.

Let's go back to November, 1965, for the moment and the issue of HOBBIES for that date. This issue contained the article covering the Bear Standing, and at that time no factual background on the bank had been established and was so stated in the article. Further, the bank was attributed to either Stevens or Kenton as being the manufacturer. Well there would seem to be no question now but that the Bear Standing was definitely a Kenton product. It was in their sample or display room for years along with other toys, banks, and so on that they manufactured. It just remained unnoticed and only recently, on the above mentioned occasion, the facts surrounding this particular mechanical bank came to light.

The sample example has a special finish in bronze plate, as did a number of their other display pieces, as well as some of their regular production toys. In its period, as has been mentioned before, this type finish was considered something special and of premium quality as compared to the regular painted type. No doubt Kenton displayed this Bear with its special finish for this very reason. In any case, it is the only one the writer has ever seen or knows of with the bronze plate finish.

The Bear pictured on the right is the same one shown in the November, 1965, article. It has the usual light tan overall paint with brown eyes and nose and a red mouth. The writer uses the term "usual" as this is the only way he has seen authentic examples of the bank painted. The two banks shown are identical with the exception of their respective finishes, and in closing this out for the present we are now just about as sure as we can be that the Bear Standing is a Kenton mechanical bank.

JOHN D. MEYER

We regretfully inform our readers of the death of John D. Meyer, the last of the older pioneer collectors of mechanical banks. Mr. Meyer had been a patient in Tyrone Hospital since May 7, of this year and died there September 1, after a long illness. He was 97 at the time.

Mr. Meyer started collecting mechanical banks in 1938 and the nucleus of his collection was a Tammany Bank which had been given to him when he was a small boy. This bank passed through the family to his niece, then to her three girls, and then was given back to Mr. Meyer where it became the cause or inspiration of his becoming a collector of mechanical banks.

In 1948, he published a book titled "A Handbook Of Old Mechanical Penny Banks", and Mr. Meyer lived to see his book actually become a collector's item. The book certainly helped the hobby considerably and the writer well remembers the great amount of time that Mr. Meyer spent in getting it together.

During the 10-year period of his starting to collect banks until the publication of his book he was particularly active in his hobby and formulated a fine collection including a number of rarities

such as the Freedman's Bank, Presto Savings Bank, Snake And Frog In Pond, Royal Trick Elephant, Clown On Bar, and others. He continued the activity of his hobby up until fairly recent years.

In addition to mechanical banks, Mr. Meyer also had an interest in and collected to a more limited extent clocks, music boxes, ruby glass, coin glass, and to some extent, coins.

A bachelor, Mr. Meyer spent the greater part of his life in Tyrone, Pa., and resided in the First National Bank Building, Tyrone. He had many and varied interests and was a banker by profession, which career he began in 1909. In 1921 he was named Vice President of the Board, and as a Director retired at the age of 89.

John, as the writer was privileged to call him, will be missed by his many fellow mechanical bank collectors. He was the last of the old line pioneers who started their collections when they were mid-age men.

Magic Safe Bank (Nickels Only) by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1971

Once again we are pleased to be in position to pass along information on a new find in a mechanical bank. This is the Magic Safe, pictured herewith, and it is made to use with nickels only. Please refer to HOBBIES for May 1969 and the article on the Magic Safe which was made to use with English pennies. At the time, the English penny version was the only type of the Magic Safe known to the writer. Now we have one made to use with nickels.

The bank shown is in reasonably nice paint condition and completely original with no repairs. It is an overall red with the door an iridescent type red. On the door, the name, the Indian Head nickel, and wording below are in a silver-gold. Wording on the top and two sides is in white. When the door is open, Figure 2, the numbered amounts of money are in red on a cream color background.

The bank operates the same way as its companion made for the English market — a nickel pushed in the slot, center top, causes the door to spring open automatically as shown in Figure 2.

Both banks were made in Germany, one for the English trade and the one under discussion for the American market. Other than general appearance and having the same name and operation, there are considerable differences between the two banks. Most notable on the American version is the Indian Head or Buffalo nickel dated 1917 on the door. Under this appears the following:

**IF YOU HAVE A MIND TO SEE
WHAT GREAT SUMS IN THIS MAY BE
PUT A NICKEL IN THE SLOT AND
YOU'LL SEE WHAT YOU HAVE GOT**

Along the coin slot is "5 CENTS." The wording on the sides of the bank is the same as on the English version with one exception. Where the number 6410 appears on the English, the number is 6412/5 on the American. The inside coin tube is smaller in order to fit the nickel properly. And, of course, where English coin amounts are shown on the one using the English penny, the coin amounts on the American type are from 50 cents up to \$2.00.

Now, the writer is faced with somewhat of a dilemma — is the bank under discussion a "Type" bank or a variation? Is it a different bank since it was made for use in two different countries, plus

all the other necessary differences to make it this way? This is the first time, so far as the writer is concerned, that a situation of this exact nature concerning a mechanical bank has occurred. While not yet decided, it will be.

NEW MECHANICAL BANK BOOK (ILLUSTRATED)

The writer is pleased to advise you that his new illustrated mechanical bank book will be available at the time this appears. All known old authentic mechanical banks are pictured and graded individually. They are listed alphabetically and numbered accordingly. There are 297 mechanical banks in this new book, that's an increase of 42 banks over the 1966 booklet.

In addition, there is a considerably increased section on variations and a section on all known fakes.

So we finally have permanent numbers for each mechanical bank. Some of the mechanicals are shown for the first time in any publication and it is the first time that all are shown in a single publication.

To obtain a copy of this new book please see the writer's ad in this department.

Fun-Producing Savings Banks by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1972

Well, at long last, we can finally pass along information on a very interesting mechanical bank that could be just as well described as a "new find." It really isn't, however, since a few people (including the writer who has known of its existence for some years) have known of the bank in the past couple of years. Actually, the Fun Producing Bank, No. 205, in the numerical classification stayed pretty much under wraps (including a long stay in a bushel basket) for years in an old house in Adamsburg, Pa., in the possession of Squire Walter J. Henry.

The late Squire Henry was a very interesting man and in years of collecting he acquired a variety of fine antiques including a great collection of occupational shaving mugs, some fine cast iron toys, and a collection of mechanical banks. Included in the mechanical banks was an outstanding example of the Mikado and the very rare little scale bank we now have under discussion. This scale bank, particularly in the last couple of years, attained a degree of charisma since, when a few others learned of its existence, naturally the desire to own one increased and it became a subject of discussion, word passed around, and so on.

In any case, the Henry sales (a series of auctions) started three years ago, 1971 being the third year. They went on at regular intervals beginning in the summer of 1969, then continuing the summer of 1970. None were held during the summer of 1971 largely due to the Pittsburgh newspaper strike and the fact the sales could not be advertised therein. The auctions then resumed in the fall of 1971 mainly advertised, however, by distribution of circulars. Then due to the unfortunate and untimely death of Squire Henry it was decided that all remaining items would be sold. This now brings us up to date, and to the Fun Producing Savings Bank sold at auction a few weeks ago and finally pictured herewith. No one was ever permitted to photograph the bank prior to its sale and it is the only bank in the writer's new book where it is necessary to use an original old catalog picture.

The Silver-Mirror Company of Chicago, Ill., was responsible for the Fun Producing Savings

Bank. This company started in business February 2, 1914, for the purpose of selling premiums and give-aways by mail. The company went out of existence October 9, 1943. In a necessarily, somewhat limited way, former members of the company were contacted with no particular results in any specifics concerning the background of the bank under discussion. The firm had many products and lack of information with respect to the scale bank, one of their earlier items, is understandable under the circumstances.

Considerable help is offered by a Butler Bros. Catalog for 1918 which pictures this bank and offers it at 95c a dozen, packed one dozen to a box. The picture that appears in this catalog is completely accurate, depicts the bank just like it is, and it is the one the writer used in his new book on mechanical banks.

Figure 1 shows the bank ready for operation and Figure 2 after the action. The bank is set for operation by moving the small lever down into position as shown in Figure 1. This lever is shown in the up position after the action in Figure 2. The mechanism is activated by placing a penny in the provided slot in the top of the scale. As shown in Figure 1, the wording "Your Correct Weight" appears in a section of the upper part of the dial or face of the scale. When the coin is inserted into the slot this wording changes automatically and now reads "You Are Just One Cent Lighter" as shown in Figure 2. The wording is reset by means of the lever after each operation of the bank (pushed into the down position). Coins accumulate in the base and eventually fill up the column through which they fall. A clever, quite different mechanical bank.

Other wording appearing on the bank and shown in both photos: On the dial – "One Cent Platform Scales Company;" on the front of the base – "Guess Your Weight Get Your Money Back." The underside of the base is particularly interesting and the following appears thereon: "*Fun Producing Savings Bank*" – Price 15 cents – The Silver-Mirror Company, Inc., 123 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill."

The bank is an overall green. With one exception all lettering is in black on white backgrounds. The one exception is the white wording "You Are Just One Cent Lighter" on a black background.

By far the greater percentage of the cast iron mechanicals were made in the United States. Not so with the tin mechanicals – the greater percentage of these are foreign, mainly Germany and some England. So it is nice, in this case The Fun Producing Savings Bank, to add another American made tin mechanical to this fine group of banks.

Safe Deposit Box (Tin Elephant)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1972

A quite rare, unusual, desirable tin elephant bank is our choice at this time as No. 206 in the numerical classification. This mechanical, the Safe Deposit Bank, along with the Royal Trick Elephant, are two of the real challenges in the elephant group of the mechanical banks. True, each of these tin banks would, generally speaking, have a greater appeal to a more advanced collector, however, this does not alleviate the fact that any collector, beginner or otherwise, would like to own either or both. And a challenge it is when we consider the bank under discussion and pictured herewith is the only known example to exist in a collection.

The bank shown is from the extensive Hegarty collection, and Mrs. Gertrude Hegarty was most thoughtful and helpful in permitting the writer to examine the Safe Deposit Bank thoroughly and have it photographed and so on. The bank was originally found some years ago by the late Frank Ball, and unfortunately there is no record as to the circumstances surrounding his discovery of it.

This could have been of some possible help since, to the best of the writer's knowledge, there is practically nothing known with respect to the background of the bank. For example, the name itself is quite unusual for a bank of this type. One would not normally associate an elephant bank of this nature with the name Safe Deposit. It just doesn't fit. Now this is not greatly important, but it does offer a curiously interesting point. We also do not know the time period of the bank in any factual area. We have no old catalog information, nor is there any information on the bank itself. In any case, in the writer's opinion, based on a thorough study of the bank, it is a rather early item and of American manufacture. Part of this judgment is based on the paper labels which are on each side of the base and have the name thereon. Also, this bank is put together in similar fashion to early tin toys of similar type that were made in the United States. So until such time that factual information may come to light, we will place the bank circa 1880's and of American manufacture.

The bank shown is in very nice original condition with no repairs. The original paint is exceptionally good, particularly for a tin bank of its type. Colors are as follows: The figure of the elephant is an overall gray, and on his back he has a red blanket with gold edging. He has black ears with a white mark to the front of each ear. His tusks are white and he has white eyes with black pupils. A red mouth and black feet complete the coloring on the figure. The rectangular shape base has a slant roof-like top in red. The ends of the base are blue. On each side of the base there is a large dark blue paper label. Stenciled or printed on each is the name "Safe Deposit Bank" in decorative gold lettering. The name is legible, but somewhat worn — more so on the reverse side, not pictured.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the rounded end of the trunk. On depressing the tail, the trunk recedes (moves back), dropping the coin in the provided slot in the top of the roof-like base on which the elephant stands. The action is quite unusual, as a matter of fact unique, with the trunk in a lowered position and swinging back to deposit the coin. This method of operation adds considerable interest to the bank.

In closing it bears mention that the Safe Deposit Bank belongs considerably further up in the numerical classification. Its assigned number in the classification at this point is not vitally important. The information concerning the bank, recognition, and so on, is of importance, and that is what we have done at this time.

Guessing Bank (Woman's Figure)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1972

Following through with last month's article on the Safe Deposit Bank, we are once again expressing our appreciation to Mrs. Gertrude Hegarty for the courtesies extended to the writer enabling him to pass along information on another very unusual mechanical bank from her excellent collection. The bank is the Guessing Bank (Woman's Figure) and, of necessity, at this point No. 207 in the numerical classification. This bank shares the same name with, and could be considered a companion to, the more familiar Guessing Bank (HOBBIES, March 1962). As we shall see, beyond sharing the same name, they have very definite similarities, and in the writer's opinion were manufactured in or near the same time.

From an appearance standpoint certain aspects of the woman's figure would seem a little questionable with respect to its being a child's toy savings device. However, we must remember that questionable liberties, in the area of being a child's toy, exist with a number of the mechanicals. As example, there are two where a figure is thumbing its nose (Freedman's and

Pelican), a rat being served to a Chinaman on a tray (Chinaman In Boat), the definite Labor, Capitalist, Banker theme of the Bread Winners Bank, and others of varying and similar nature, all made and sold as a toy mechanical bank. We must also remember that certain time periods have a definite relationship to the subject matter of certain mechanical banks, particularly those just mentioned and possibly to the one under present discussion.

The bank shown is in extra fine all original condition. It was added to the Hegarty collection through the help of the late Frank Ball and, unfortunately, to the best of the writer's knowledge, it is not definitely known just where Mr. Ball obtained the bank. This information may well have been of some help since we know little or nothing about the background of this bank. There are no markings or dates on the bank itself and we have no more to go on than its relationship to the other Guessing Bank. The writer knows of no old catalogs, patent papers, or anything else that relate to the bank. As with other mechanicals of unknown background, we are always hopeful that future or happenstance will shed some light on the matter.

The Guessing Bank pictured, as is the case with its companion named piece, is a very well made, finely detailed bank. Other than the cast iron square box-like coin container base, the entire upper part of the bank is cast in some type of white metal. This has sort of a gold tinge bronze finish thereon. The square cast iron base is black enamel. The numbers around the dial are white and the pointer is gold. Not too colorful a bank, but certainly a very attractive item.

To operate, a coin is dropped in the provided slot in the rounded top of the fluted column by the girl's head. This causes the pointer to spin, and that's it. Ostensibly if you previously guessed the proper number at which the pointer stops, you were paid five times the amount of your deposited coin. This is borne out by the wording that appears just under the dial, 'Pays Five For One' and further wording just under this, 'If You Call The Number.' The name 'Guessing Bank' is on the fluted column above the dial. The dial is surrounded by a wreath which affords a nice decorative effect. The somewhat enticing figure of the girl is a rather well endowed type, typical of the time, with the Lillian Russell hour-glass touch.

The base section is rather unusual with its provided method for removal of coins. It is made like a box with no top and is held in place by a bar going through the front and on through the back. A lock holds this bar in place in the back of the bank. Removing the lock with a key allows the bar to be pulled through from the front and the base container separates from the body of the bank. This is unique as a coin receptacle on a mechanical bank.

In closing it bears mention as to the specific similarities between the two Guessing Banks. Each has the same operation with similar mechanism inside. Each is made the same way and of the same metals. They share the same type finish and the same wording appears on each. Two things they do not share is rarity and a patent date. To the best of the writer's knowledge, the Guessing Bank (Woman's Figure) as pictured here is the only one known to exist in a collection. The other Guessing Bank, as explained in HOBBIES, March, 1962 article, has a patent date thereon, May 22, 1877.

Stump Speaker Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1972

The bank we have chosen as No. 208 in the numerical classification is quite timely and appropriate in this important Election Year of 1972. The Stump Speaker is a mechanical that would seem to fit the political situation like a glove. It is a quite attractive bank in any case, although its

name does have a definitive area of meaning.

In the 1800's speakers, usually political, appearing before backwood audiences often spoke while standing on a tree stump. Eventually speakers of this type were referred to as "stump speakers." Then along the same political line came the terminology "stump orator" and "stump campaign." As example, the debates between Lincoln and Douglas in 1858, when competing for the Senate, were referred to as a "stump campaign." Eventually the term "stump speaker" broadened in its usage to include all those who made political speeches through the countryside, but not necessarily on tree stumps. "Stump" then referred to the platform on which the speaker stood. And in electioneerings a politician "stumps" the State.

The Stump Speaker Bank was patented November 16, 1886 by Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams of Buffalo, N.Y. Adams, was the assignor to Walter J. Shepard of the same city. The patent papers covering the bank are quite detailed with three pages of drawings. These drawings first show the bank complete, then an overall cut-through back view, cut-through side view, and a page of various operating parts. The papers are usually precise and well cover the bank. It was made by the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo. As compared to the patent papers, Shepard made several changes when they produced the bank. The face of the figure was changed to that of a Negro, an umbrella lying on the platform was eliminated, and a perky top hat was added.

The all original bank shown is in the extensive Leon Perelman collection. Paint condition is very good and colors are as follows: The top hat is gray with a black band, his face and hands are dark brown, hair and eyebrows are black. His white eyes have tan iris and black pupils. He has white teeth with red spacing between, and his lips are red. He wears a snappy green suit with yellow vest, red coat collar, white shirt, and black tie. The jacket edges, pockets, and cuffs are piped in red. His shoes are black. The satchel is light and dark tan with black frame and handle. Top of the platform represents wood boards and is gray with some color definition between the boards. Front, back and side plates of the base are red. The name "Stump Speaker" on the front plate along with the decoration is gold. The name "Bank" on each side plate is also gold. The four corner columns are black, as is the under-edging of the platform and the base plate edging. Yellow striping then frames each base plate. A blue-gray lever completes the coloring of the bank. Quite colorful, and a very attractive toy savings device.

To operate, a coin is placed in his outstretched right hand. On pressing the lever his mouth closes, he lowers his right hand and forearm and the satchel opens. The coin drops from his hand into the open satchel. On releasing the lever, the satchel closes and the coin drops into the base container. His right arm returns to the position as shown in the picture. The balanced jaw swings back and forth a number of times, giving the effect of speaking. Good action and completely in keeping with the name of the bank.

The Stump Speaker is sort of a companion bank to Uncle Sam (HOBBIES, July, 1965), and they are directly tied together by the patents involved. As a matter of fact, the base plate of the Stump Speaker has the date June 8, 1886, inscribed along one end. Actually this is the design patent date of the Uncle Sam Bank. This came to be a fashion. Both patents, the regular on the Stump Speaker and the design on the Uncle Sam, were applied for on the same date, May 1, 1886. The design patent was issued first, June 8th, and since both banks have the same operation and working parts, this date was used on each. Under other circumstances, the date of November 16th, issue date of the regular patent, could have been employed since the operations covered by this patent also apply to both banks. Shepard simply decided to use the earlier issue date since it was expedient for them to do so.

Clever Dick Bank (Tin)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1972

It's been a little while since we have had the pleasure of announcing the discovery of a new find in a mechanical bank. Well it has happened again, and we have come up with a very attractive mechanical previously not known to exist, for description and discussion. This is the Clever Dick Bank, a German tin mechanical made apparently for the English market only, and of necessity at this point, No. 209 in the numerical classification. It is a well designed, cleverly conceived toy savings device with very good mechanical action. It well fits into either of two groups, one having dogs as the subject matter and the other comprising clown representations with their circus background overtones.

Like the Clown And Dog (HOBBIES, March, 1969), the Clever Dick Bank has certain characteristics and things in common with the Monkey And Parrot (HOBBIES, November, 1961). For one thing, we know the bank was made in Germany as it is so marked. Other than this, factual information as to the manufacture and so on is not known at this time. There are, to the best of the writer's knowledge, no old catalogs or other things of this nature that picture or describe the bank. Based on what we have to work with, plus its similarities and possible close relationship to the Clown And Dog and Monkey And Parrot, we place the bank, circa 1910.

The extra fine original condition Clever Dick shown was obtained through a Paris, France, antique source and, unfortunately, its background prior to this time is not known. It is an exceptionally bright cheerful type of bank with vivid coloring. These colors are as follows: The dog is done in shadings of white, gray, tan and brown. His eye has a blue iris and black pupil with white center. He wears sizeable red shoes and his peaked hat has a large red pompom. The over-size collar around his neck is white with blue definitions and red striping. The two clowns in the background, one on each side of the dog, are in red and white. A yellow recessed section over the dog's nose contains the following verse in black letters:

**I'm a star
performer
Known as
"Clever Dick"
Place a penny
on my nose
Then I will
do my trick**

Curving bright red and green sections defined in blue are on the semi-circular top half. The section below this is in green with a blue band across the bottom. The raised base is red, as is the box-like coin container section on the back. The entire back of the face plate of the bank is black. The word "Germany" is impressed along the bottom edge of the box-shaped section in the back. There is a locking coin trap on the underside of the base section.

The writer has found that the large size English penny works correctly with this bank. It fits properly into the upper recessed section as the operation takes place and has the right thickness, weight and diameter. American pennies will not work properly. Since the verse itself directs the use of a penny, the reference must be to the English coin. So to the operation — we first place a large penny on the dog's nose. Next we go to the lever located by the dog's tail. This must be depressed slowly — in so doing, the dog's mouth is caused to open by the tilting of his nose and head. The

coin rolls back and up as though balancing on the tip of his nose. As the nose reaches its peak of travel, the dog's mouth is then wide open and the coin falls therein. The effect is quite realistic and unique. On releasing the lever, moving parts return to their positions automatically.

In closing, to repeat, all three banks, Monkey And Parrot, Clown And Dog, and Clever Dick, have striking similar characteristics, including construction and operation. However, the action of the coin is quite different in the case of the Clever Dick. With respect to configuration or outline of the bank, the base section, and the back box coin container, these parts are just like those of the Clown And Dog.

Watch Dog Safe

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1972

A very limited number of mechanical banks were made in the form of a safe. Quite the opposite is true in the case of the still banks. There are so many different safe type still banks the exact number is not known, sufficient to say it runs into hundreds of kinds. Since the inception of these articles, we have covered only four safe type mechanicals in the 20 odd years. These are The United States Bank, Fortune Teller Savings Bank, Magic Safe, and the special article on the Magic Safe (Nickels Only). Now we come to the Watch Dog Safe, appropriately named, and No. 210 in the numerical classification. If one chooses, this bank very nicely fits in with the dog group. It certainly is a well conceived toy mechanical savings safe when we take into consideration that the dog guards or watches the money therein and on the deposit of each coin acknowledges same with a squeaking bark.

The Watch Dog Safe was made in the 1880's-1890's period and it is attributed to the J. & E. Stevens Company. The writer had an interesting experience years ago on the occasion of one of his visits to the Stevens Company. Usually Saturday afternoon or a Sunday was the best time to look around the place since a person, with proper permission, could do so with less disturbance involved. In any case, while in one of the buildings that contained the pattern room, always kept locked, the writer was permitted to go in and look through this special room. On the back of the wooden door of the room he noticed a colored advertising card of the Watch Dog Safe which had been glued to the door many years before. Mr. Frisbie, the man in charge, was kind enough to permit the writer to carefully remove this card from the door. At the time Mr. Frisbie said they had made the bank at Stevens and the card in question was one of their advertising flyers pasted on the door by one of the workers. Interestingly enough, the writer has never seen a Stevens catalog picturing this bank, so the card is of considerable importance. It is in colors, accurately depicts the bank, and along with showing the name "Watch Dog Safe", it states "When Deposits are made the Watch Dog Barks."

The bank shown is in all original condition and the paint is rather good for this particular bank. For some reason the Watch Dog Safe is somewhat difficult to find in nice original paint condition. Colors are as follows: The overall safe is black and decorations on the door are in gold. The dog is white with black markings and he wears a red collar. The extended or protruding section under the dog is silver. The top of the bank shows a brown bird in a yellow nest on a brown tree branch with green leaves. This is cast in relief. Gold decorations are in each corner of the top. On each side of the bank, cast in relief, is a Roman or Greek type bust. This is in gold, and on top of the helmet-like headgear is a long tailed brown bird. Both sides also have gold decorations in each of the four corners. This completes the coloring of the bank.

To operate, a coin is placed in the provided slot in the top of the safe. The coin stays in place until the lever on the left side of the bank is pressed upward. In so doing the coin drops inside automatically and the dog on the front lowers his jaw opening his mouth. A barking sound is emitted by means of a bellows inside the bank. This bellows is depressed by means of mechanism in connection with the operating lever. On release, the lever and parts return automatically to their respective positions. The operating mechanism inside the bank is interesting and rather unique. It is made in such fashion that it disconnects itself when the door is opened since working parts are on the inside of the door, as well as inside the safe itself. These parts engage themselves when the door is closed.

Coins are removed from the bank by means of the combination lock on the door. This combination number is usually 217, although other combined numbers may have been used.

Magic Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1972

Magicians performing their various feats of magic certainly have what we could call universal appeal. And when we consider the word itself, magic, it so well defines and conveys its own meaning. In any case, a select interesting group of mechanical banks have to do with magic and one of them, now to be discussed, is named the Magic Bank, No. 211 in the numerical classification. Some other mechanicals that make up this group are the Magician Bank, Magic Safe, Magic Bank, Mikado Bank, Columbian Magic Savings Bank, and the Presto (an illusion effect). The various trick drawer banks like the Trick Savings Bank also fit into this category since the coin seems to disappear. Included in these are the wooden chests like Serrill Patent and others in iron such as the Presto Bank and Chandlers Bank. There are several mechanicals, for example the Presto Savings Bank, that are borderline cases, but it is not necessary or particularly important at this time to list them.

The outstanding bank with the magic theme is the Mikado, a mechanical that just seems to have everything going for it. Of course, we can't forget the Magician Bank, which in its action and appearance is so completely appropriate of its name. This bank, by the way, is one of the writer's favorites. Now we come to the Magic Bank and a rather odd circumstance. Certainly that name itself would place this bank in the magic group. And most certainly the coin would almost seem to disappear with the fast action involved. However, the bank actually represents a building of the "bank" type and the word "Cashier" appears on the door over the figure of the man. This bank then in its action and appearance is very much the same as the National Bank, which would not under any normal circumstances be classed in the magic group. This circumstance of the Magic Bank is not earth shaking, but it most surely is a point of interest and due consideration.

The Magic Bank was patented under two different patents with different dates. The first, August 5, 1873, actually covers the National Bank, but due to similarities as mentioned here it also applies to the Magic Bank. This patent was issued to H. W. Prouty of Boston, Mass. On March 7, 1876 a patent was issued to Mr. Prouty which covers just the Magic Bank. That is to say this patent simplified certain aspects of the National Bank, such as the figure moving back and forth behind the door. This could easily get out of order and actually, therefore, the Magic Bank is a refinement of the National Bank. Naturally by placing the figure of the cashier on the back of the door considerable manufacturing time and expense were saved. The J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., manufactured the Magic Bank, as well as the National Bank.

The writer has always felt that the National Bank is a somewhat under-rated mechanical. It is difficult to find one in even fairly good condition and examples of the bank just don't turn up very often. It is highly likely this is due to the fact it may have been made just during the three year period between the patent dates of 1873 to 1876. In other words, when the Magic Bank went into production, since it more or less replaced the National Bank, manufacture of the National was discontinued at the time or not too long thereafter.

The Magic Bank pictured is an unusually fine all original example in extra nice paint condition. Colors are as follows: The roof, highlighting and outlining of the windows, and the base are a dark blue. The chimney is a very light blue topped in red and striped in blue. The front, back, and sides of the building are the same light blue as the chimney. The corners and underpart of the overhang of the roof are red. The door, when in closed position, has red outlining with a tan center section. The top part of this section has flower representation in green, white, yellow and black. Under this are decorations in white and red. With the door in position as shown in the picture the outlining is again in red with the word "Cashier" in white. The cashier has pink facial color with features in black, he wears a white shirt, yellow vest, black suit, and his hair is black. The background behind the figure is medium blue and the tray is dark blue. The section below the figure is the same as on the door front. The domed inner part of the building in which the door revolves is medium blue with red flooring. The name "Magic Bank" is in blue and this completes a quite colorful bank.

To operate, the door is turned into the position as shown in the picture exposing the cashier. It snaps into place. A coin, as shown, is then placed on the tray. A small lever on the left front side of the building is then pressed. The door whirls around with real speed and the coin is deposited inside the bank. Simple but effective action.

The patent dates previously mentioned are cast into the underside of the perforated base plate. For removal of coins a sliding coin trap is in the back part of the base plate. The trap bears the date "Pat. June 8, 1875", and this date applies to the trap only. There is a large coin slot in the peak of the roof behind the chimney for larger coins.

Elephant Howdah (Man Pops Out)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1972

One of the more interesting banks in the elephant group of the mechanicals is our choice as No. 212 in the numerical classification. This is the Elephant Howdah (Man Pops Out), and it has the desirable feature of surprise action — the man emerging from the covered howdah. The only marking on the bank is the wording "Pat Apld For" on the underside of the cover of the howdah. This is significant, but, as has been mentioned numbers of times in the past, if this is all we have to go on to date a bank or to try to locate patent papers, it is of no help at all.

At this point, with reference to patent papers, we would like to divert from the Elephant Howdah to go rather briefly into several important factors concerning patented mechanical banks. Here and there some have more or less minimized or misdirected the importance of patent papers and their relationship to the mechanicals so covered. Anyone doing this must not be well informed and misinformation is worse than no information at all. For example, it is reasonably well known that a certain bank patented and dated, we will say 1882, does not necessarily mean that all examples of this particular bank were made in 1882.

Mechanicals with patent dates have the dates they were patented, not manufactured. Keep in mind, of course, that certain numbers of dated mechanical banks were made in the year of their

patent date. This now brings up an important point. Any mechanical bank having the inscription "Patent Applied For" thereon, where other examples of the same bank show a patent date, means that particular example of the bank is at least as old as the date, but more likely somewhat prior to the date. This is why we can say the Frog On Round Base patented August 20, 1872 is another bank we can place in the 100 year old category in this year of 1972. Some dated examples of this bank that exist today are in fact 100 years old and others may be 95 years old, but that's not the point. And should a Frog On Round Base have "Patent Applied For" on the bank, then we know for sure it is at least 100 years old.

Above and beyond the dates of patent papers covering mechanical banks is their importance concerning background, purpose, the designer and inventor, possible manufacturer, and, of course, the drawings. Patent papers on the mechanicals are an interesting study in themselves and they add so much stature and factual information that it would seem incredible to minimize them in any fashion.

Now back to the bank on hand, the Elephant Howdah (Man Pops Out). As mentioned, the inscription "Pat Apld For" appears on the underside of the howdah cover. Well this is one of those mechanicals that to the best of the writer's knowledge was only made with this inscription and it may well be that no patent was ever issued on the bank. The writer has never seen an example, nor does he know of any, that have a date in place of the inscription. Also he has never seen any patent papers that would apply to the bank. In any case, an old manufacturer's catalog is helpful to us in establishing a time period for the bank and who made it. It is the illustrated and priced catalog of the Enterprise Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia, Pa. They were iron founders and probably best known for their famous line of coffee grinders. The catalog is dated 1884 and on page 37 appears what they called the Enterprise Elephant Bank, which is the bank we now have under discussion. At the time, as shown in their catalog, the price of the bank was \$5.00 per dozen, packaged three dozen in a case.

The bank shown is in extra fine original condition and it is a difficult item to find in this fashion. Colors are as follows: The figure of the animal is bronze gold, the blanket is red, and the howdah has blue sides with a red top. Gold decoration is on each bottom side of the howdah. The man inside is wood and he wears his original blue cloth coat. It's a challenge to find the bank having this figure with the original coat. His hat is painted red, his hair black, and facial features are in black with red mouth and white eyes.

To operate, the trunk is raised up or the figure of the man is pressed down. In either case, both lock or snap into position. The top of the howdah is then manually closed. A coin is then placed in the elephant's mouth. On pressing the small lever to the rear of the howdah the trunk snaps down knocking the coin inside the elephant. At the same time the figure of the man pops out of the howdah knocking or flipping the cover back. The bank is pictured in this described position after the operation.

In closing we would like to refer once more to mechanicals now in the century old category. Including those that will reach this mark in 1972, we have the following: Serrill Patent Bureau (both types) – Halls Excelsior – Horse Race – Frog on Arched Track – Home Bank (both types) – Frog On Round Base.

Mule Entering Barn Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1972

Mechanical banks representing country life, rural or farm scenes are rather few and far between, however, the limited types made utilizing this subject matter form a very appealing nostalgic group. Probably the outstanding mechanical that so well typifies and accurately depicts the country-farm division is the Milking Cow Bank, a great mechanical with amusing, clever action. Over the years the writer has never encountered anyone, collector or otherwise, who didn't really like, understand, and appreciate the Milking Cow. It could be said it is one of the animated toy savings devices having universal appeal. (Information covering the Milking Cow appeared in HOBBIES, August, 1953.) As we reach No. 213 in the numerical classification we have chosen a member of this same group, and while its appeal may not be as great as that of the Milking Cow it in its own way certainly has desirable aspects and considerable attraction. This is the Mule Entering Barn, a bank that well fits the rural theme. Other mechanicals comprising the group are Boys Stealing Watermelons, Hen and Chick, Weeden's Plantation Darky Savings Bank, Uncle Remus, Bad Accident, and perhaps a border-line bank or two such as I Always Did 'Spise A Mule.

The Mule Entering Barn was patented August 3, 1880 by Edward L. Morris of Boston, Mass., and this patent date is used on the base of the bank itself. We mention this with respect to the fact Mr. Morris patented the bank previous to this date, specifically January 6, 1880. In this patent, however, unlike the bank as manufactured, the figure of the mule pivoted at the shoulder on the front legs. That is to say the body of the mule moved up and over on stationary front legs, the front legs being fastened to the base. The bank as produced is just like the patent drawings and text of the August 3rd date with one very interesting and important exception. Mr. Morris made no provision in his patent text or drawings for the dog that runs out of the barn. Whether he or the J. & E. Stevens Company who made the bank added this most attractive additional action is not known, and it doesn't really matter, as in either case it is a very desirable feature. Not mentioned in the text of either patent is the movement of the mule's offset tail. This was a practical additional action since had it been made stationary it well could have interfered with the coin when thrown from the hind legs into the barn.

The bank shown is in extra fine, all original condition. The paint is exceptionally nice and colors are as follows: The roof is medium tan brown with a red stripe along the length of the peak. The under-section of each end of the roof is red. The sides, back and parts of the front of the barn are an off shade of green. The inside entrance way is yellow. In the bottom of the entrance way is representation of green grass into which the mule's head more or less fits when positioned therein. Red outlines the windows, the sides, and other parts of the building. Two small roof sections are on either side of the mule's front legs and these are the same color as the main roof and outlined in red. The base is a darker red-brown striped in red. The mule is dark brown with black mane, tail, mouth and rear hoofs. He has white eyes. The dog is white spotted in black and definition of his eyes is also black. That completes the coloring on a very attractive bank.

To operate, the mule is pulled down into position as shown in the picture. Also, as shown, a coin is placed between his rear legs. Then a small lever on the base is pressed forward. The mule rapidly pivots over and he ends up standing on his head in the barn. The coin is thrown inside the building as the mule's tail moves up and to the side. At the same time a dog springs forward from an entrance way in the lower front of the barn. This opening shows in the photo. Good action and the mule is again pulled down in position as shown for further operation.

In closing, it is well to point out that the tail of the mule is the vulnerable part of this bank. More often than not when an example turns up the tail is either broken or missing.

Artillery Bank (Helmeted Figure)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1972

A different and very interesting example of the Artillery Bank has recently come to light. There is no question as to its authenticity and originality or to its being a production bank. Everything about it is right. It will be known as Artillery Bank, Type II (Helmeted Figure) and necessarily at this point classified as No. 214 in the numerical classification.

There is not a great deal to say with respect to the general appearance and operation of this bank since it looks like and has the same action of the regular Artillery Bank, (HOBBIES, April 1971). The figure of the soldier however is another matter. It is quite different than that of the regular Artillery. The helmet and other casting differences very definitively represent a German or Prussian type soldier. It possibly could have been made as an export item but in any case it is obviously quite a scarce bank and undoubtedly had limited production.

The bank has the rectangular locking coin trap, over all bronze finish and based on what we have to go on it was a product of the Shepard Hardware Company rather than J. & E. Stevens. Bear in mind both companies made the regular Artillery Bank, but we know of no painted examples by Shepard, no bronze examples by Stevens and none were made by Shepard with the round Stevens trap. Likewise Stevens did not use the locking rectangular trap on their Artillery Banks. They modified the original Shepard patterns to accept the use of their round trap.

Back to the helmet type figure for a moment, it is important to note that the entire figure is of necessity a different casting than that of the regular soldier wearing the visor type cap or hat. The spike peak of the helmet fits through the helmet itself and locks in place inside the head of the figure thus holding the headpiece in place.

Figure I (top) shows the bank before or after the action. Figure II (below) pictures the bank set to operate. As with the regular Artillery the soldier drops his positioned firing signal arm and the coin is fired or propelled from the mortar into the blockhouse. A paper cap can be used in the mortar to cause a loud report as the action occurs. The patent date of May 31st, 1892 is cast in the base and the same patent papers thus apply to this bank as with the regular Artillery.

The bank shown has been, more or less, under wraps for some years. It certainly is an intriguing item and makes a great companion piece when displayed with the Stevens painted type. The bank can in many respects be considered a new find, to the best of the writer's knowledge, prior to this time, it was not generally known to exist.

Elephant Howdah (Locked)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1972

Well, at long last we have finally come up with an Elephant Howdah (Locked) that is an old original bank in all respects. In the writer's opinion the bank pictured is completely authentic and this conclusion was reached after considerable personal careful examination of the bank itself. Since there is a difference in each side of the howdah and other factors, we are showing the bank from each side both before and after the action. At this point in the numerical classification the Elephant Howdah (Locked) is necessarily No. 215.

Mrs. Wally Tudor is the fortunate collector who discovered the bank recently and, of course, he has added it to his fine collection of mechanicals. It is in very nice condition with good paint and the colors are as follows: The peaked top of the howdah is dark red and the section under this is

blue. The square recessed sections on both sides are white. The side with the figure cast therein depicts a black bearded man wearing a red hat and brown jacket. His facial coloring is natural. The blanket on the elephant is dark red trimmed in yellow with two black straps. The elephant is a green-gray color and he has white tusks with gold balls on the ends. The base is an off-shade of green and the two tree stumps thereon are brown. The underside of the base is a light green, and cast on the underside is the wording 'Pat July 30 1900.'

Figures 1 and 2 show the bank before and after operation. The coin is placed in the end of the trunk when in the down position. Then the lever, just under the large tree stump on which the trunk of the elephant rests, is pressed down and the coin is thrown into the howdah as shown by the position in Figure 2. Please note in Figure 2 the two tree stumps on the base. The one by the elephant's front legs serves the purpose of a spring container for the operating lever. This mechanism is on the underside of the base. Also note that the trunk of the elephant is a one-piece casting on this side. Further note that the locking coin trap is in the howdah.

Now to Figures 3 and 4 again showing the bank before and after operation. While not visible in Figure 3, it can be seen in Figure 4 that the trunk of the elephant is made in two parts on this side. It is made in this fashion to allow for the slot which holds the coin. And, of course, note the figure of the man in the howdah on this side and again the two tree stumps on the base. It is important to remember the tree stumps by the elephant's front legs as this is one sure way to identify this original old bank. Another means of identification is the operating lever. It should not be a flat spring with a knob on the end, but rather, as on the bank shown, a well made cast iron lever held in place by two lugs and accentuated by a coil spring inserted in the small tree stump.

In closing, it is interesting to note that since M. Tudor's great good fortune in acquiring this bank still another original one has turned up and they are, with one exception, identical. The word 'Bank' appears on the locking coin trap over the keyhole on this example and it was definitely made this way originally.

20th Century Savings Bank by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1973

Where mechanical bank collectors are concerned what could be more appropriate for the initial 1973 issue of HOBBIES than the announcement of a new find in a quite interesting mechanical bank. Certainly the 20th Century Savings Bank has not generally been known to exist, and as a matter of fact it was unknown to the writer until rather recently.

In any case, this bank was, for some years, more or less under wraps. It finally has come to light so we presently can list it as No. 216 in the numerical classification.

The slanted top of the bank has the following wording cast thereon: '20th Century Savings Bank Co. Pittsburg, Pa. Pat'. Needless to say, the Pittsburgh background has particular appeal to the writer and the spelling of the name Pittsburg, omitting the 'h', has particular significance.

In 1890 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names eliminated the 'h' from all cities and towns having names ending in 'burgh'. This did not sit too well with the city of Pittsburgh and a Citizen's Protest Board in 1911 finally accomplished a reversal of the decision and the 'h' was restored to Pittsburgh.

Although the name 20th Century definitely would indicate just before or right after 1900, the fact the 'h' is omitted from Pittsburgh on the bank very definitely establishes the time period of the bank. It necessarily was made during the 21 year period involved, but most likely around the 1900

time.

As to the manufacturer of the bank, we have run into a dead end. There are absolutely no records of a 20th Century Savings Bank Company ever having been in Pittsburgh.

Possibly some company under another name made the bank, but we have had no luck in this direction either. The writer has not given up as yet on this research, but he certainly has reached a standstill at this point.

The bank shown is in very good original condition. It is cast-iron with a washed or lightly nickel-plated finish. Raised relief-type decorations are on the front and the top sliding drawer. Each side has more elaborate decorations thereon.

The bank is pictured in Figure 1 either before or after operation. Figure 2 pictures the bank with the sliding drawer pulled out ready to receive the coin which is placed in the round recessed section. When the drawer is pushed in the coin is deposited in the bank.

The coin goes into a tapered chute inside the bank and on into the lower section. Each side of the sliding plate or drawer has geared teeth and there is a movable pin on each side which fits into these teeth.

When the bank is turned upside down the pins fall into place in various positions of the drawer, including open or closed position, causing the drawer to be locked in place in any of the positions. Working in this fashion, no coins can be removed or shaken from the bank. Also no coins can be removed should they stay in the tapered chute.

This is a unique operation for a mechanical bank and a very interesting mechanism. Coins are removed from the bank by means of an unusually well-made key-locked, bottom-base plate.

The hole that appears in the circular recessed coin section, as shown in Figure 2, would seem to be for the deposit of paper money, however, the old large size bills in existence at the time are somewhat difficult to deposit therein.

In closing on this bank for the time being, the writer cannot help but mention the marked similarity between the sliding drawer of the bank and the present day pin ball machines as well as other coin operated units with their sliding, coin-receiving mechanism.

It also seems quite appropriate for this first issue of 1973 to mention one of the outstanding events of 1972 insofar as mechanical bank collecting goes.

Certainly one of the greatest achievements and the goal of every mechanical bank collector is the addition of a Clown, Harlequin, & Columbine Bank to his collection.

Well, congratulations are in order to Edwin Mosler, Jr. on his acquisition of a fine all-original condition Harlequin Bank. He now joins a rather small group who have both the Freedman's and Harlequin in their respective collections: Wally Tudor, Lee Perelman, the writer, and now Ed Mosler — a very difficult accomplishment.

Organ Bank – Type II (Boy and Girl)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1973

As we reach No. 217 in the numerical classification we have chosen a mechanical with nostalgic overtones, referring our thoughts back to the era of the very popular organ grinder and his performing monkey. He certainly was a colorful figure in his day and children, as well as many grownups, never seemed to tire of the loud organ music and many antics of the monkey. The bank that so well represents this scene from the past is the Organ Bank Type II (Boy & Girl), lively action and plenty of noise are the keynotes of this bank.

Before getting into the colors and action of the Organ Bank Type II we would like to point out that this is another mechanical utilizing representations of out of proportion figures. Referring to the picture please note the large size monkey as compared to the small boy and girl. A number of the mechanical banks utilize this distortion of related size and perhaps the most outstanding of all is the Jonah and the Whale (Jonah Emerges From Whale's Mouth). Here we have the extremely large figure of Jonah (as compared to the whale) coming out of a whale which is barely larger than Jonah. Then the very small boat which holds the coin is more or less in proportion to the size of the whale, but certainly not to Jonah. Actually distortion of this type can add a lot of interest to a bank. In any case, while we are on the subject of this particular Jonah And The Whale it bears mention that one of the three, possibly four, known examples of this bank changed hands toward the end of 1972. It very definitely is one of the outstanding acquisitions of that year, and Wally Tudor is now the proud possessor of this really great bank.

Back to the Organ Bank (Boy & Girl). It was patented June 13, 1882 by Louis Kyser and Alfred C. Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., and manufactured by their company, Kyser & Rex. They made the bank pretty much in accord with the patent drawings, both as to operation and configuration. The patent drawings, however, show the figure of a cat and dog, rather than a boy and girl. This being the way the bank was made in the more common type I.

The bank shown is in exceptionally fine all original condition with no repairs and the original paint is in excellent shape. Attractive colors are as follows: The entire organ has a brown japanned-type finish, sections of the front, both sides and back are highlighted in gold. The sheet music book on the lower center front is white. The monkey's face, hands and feet are brown. He has white eyes, black pupils and a red mouth. He holds a yellow hat with red stripes in his left hand, and the tray in his right hand is gold. The monkey wears a blue jacket with yellow buttons and white collar and cuffs. His trousers are yellow and the raised section on which he sits is red. The figure of the boy has natural color legs, hands and face with black eyes and red mouth. He holds a curved gold stick over his head. He wears a blue hat, yellow jacket, red knee-length trousers, and yellow shoes. The girl's arms, legs and face are natural and she too has black eyes and red mouth. She holds a gold tambourine in her right hand. Her blouse is yellow and skirt red. Both boy and girl stand on a round blue base completing the coloring of the bank.

As shown in the photo, a coin is placed on the tray when in the raised position. The crank on the side is turned and the right arm of the monkey lowers the tray so that the coin slides therefrom into the organ. At the same time he tips his hat forward. As this action takes place the other two figures revolve — the boy turning counter-clockwise, and the girl clockwise. Accompanying this action is the ringing of bells — two in the case of the bank shown. A variety of the bank has three bells and, of course, is therefore noisier. In either case the bells are located inside the organ, one on each sideplate, and if a third, on the front plate. Hammers working on ratchets on the crank shaft ring the bells. The patent date, June 13, 1882, is inscribed in the back plate of the bank. Coins are removed by means of a key locked coin trap in the base plate.

So there you have the Organ Bank Type II, a quite attractive item with plenty of action and sound — who could ask more for a penny!

Elephant Bank (black with 3 stars) **and the Tabby Bank**

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1973

A member of the elephant group of the mechanical banks is our choice as No. 218 in the numerical classification and unfortunately we know very little of its background. The bank is known as the Elephant (Black With 3 Stars) and it is quite an attractive representation of an elephant. The only factual information we have concerning its background is contained in an Ehrich Brothers Catalog for the winter of 1884. It is pictured herein and offered for sale as the Jumbo Bank. Needless to say we do not use this name for the bank since it would only add to confusion with the regular Jumbo that has this name on the bank itself.

The Elephant (Black With 3 Stars) shown is in the extensive collection of Wally Tudor of Chicago, Ill. It is all original and the paint is in fine condition. The overall figure is done in a hard glossy type of black enamel. He has a gold blanket with three red stars. His eyes are red and definitions of gold are on his hoofs, tusks, ears, and the coin section of his trunk. Cast into and along the side of his trunk is the wording "Pat Appld."

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the provided section on the end of his upraised trunk. The tail is then depressed causing the trunk to move back depositing the coin into the head of the animal and on into its body. Coins are removed by means of a side screw which holds the bank together.

This Elephant is one that we could call handsome as it is most attractive. The bank is very well made and a fine casting.

Every now and then we come across one of the mechanicals that has a rather weird subject matter for a child's savings device. This is the case as we reach No. 219 in the numerical classification and our choice of the Tabby Bank. The idea of a cat lying in wait and ready to pounce on a chick emerging from an egg is not what one would ordinarily call a pleasant sight or experience. Nevertheless, that is the subject matter of the Tabby Bank.

Once again, we know very little about the background of the Tabby. Fortunately, however, it is pictured for sale in the C. F. Rice Catalog for September 1887. The illustration in the catalog is of large sizes, exceptionally well defined, but somewhat exaggerated as compared to the bank itself. In 1887 Rice sold the bank for \$1.50 a dozen. Rice, by the way, was known as "The Giant House" and they were located in Chicago, Ill.

The bank pictured is in fine all original condition and paint colors are as follows: The egg is lavender purple and the name Tabby Bank and decoration between are in gold. The base on which the egg rests is blue with gold edging. The cat is gray-white with some yellow definition and the chick is yellow with a red lined bill and black eyes.

As to operation, when a coin is placed in the provided slot in the back of the cat the weight of the coin on dropping inside the egg causes the chick's head to move.

Actually if one does not think about the subject matter too much the Tabby Bank is a rather interesting attractive item.

Trick Pony Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1973

A well designed, particularly attractive mechanical bank is our choice as No. 220 in the numerical classification. This is the Trick Pony, one of the more graceful and well proportioned banks. The example shown could be referred to as being in superb original condition and is probably the finest one known to exist. There's hardly a mark on the bank, just a small fleck here and there. Generally speaking, due to the nature of the bank itself it is extremely difficult at best, to

find a Trick Pony in even nice original condition. In any case, Wally Tudor is the proud possessor of the unusually fine bank pictured, and due to the circumstances surrounding his getting the bank it is one of the more meaningful mechanicals in his extensive collection.

It is unusual, as a matter of fact more usual, for a collector of mechanical banks to have certain meaningful favorites. This can be due to the bank itself, subject matter, and so on, or the conditions or circumstances under which he obtained the bank. Wally Tudor's Trick Pony is typical. It is a bank he likes particularly well and how he came about adding it to his collection has great meaning to him. Briefly, he knew of this particular bank for some time, but had been unable to obtain it from the owner. Over a period of time certain business associate friends of Wally's convinced the owner to part with the bank and they, the friends, held a special dinner and presented the Trick Pony to him. The dinner was in honor of his 35th Anniversary with Sears, Roebuck & Company. He was completely surprised and had no idea of what was to take place at the dinner. His friends even had the owner (of the Trick Pony) fly to Chicago with the bank for presentation.

The Trick Pony was made by the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo, N.Y. It was patented by Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams, Jr., of Buffalo, and Adams was assignor to Walter J. Shepard. The patent papers dated July 7, 1885, define the bank as it was produced. There are nine drawings, designated Figure 1 through Figure 9, showing the Trick Pony and its various parts. The bank as made is identical to these drawings.

Coloring of this very attractive bank is as follows: The pony is an all over reddish brown, his eyes are white and black, and the nostrils red. Hoofs, tail and mane are black. He has a blue saddle outlined in yellow with a red strap. The decorative section around his neck is blue and yellow, and his bridle straps are yellow. The pedestal is gray and light tan. The top of the base and trough are gray with some gold decorations. Side plates and end plates are a dark brown outlined in gold and black. The name "Trick Pony" on each side plate is in gold. On the trough end plate appears the word "Bank" in gold with a gold diamond-shaped decoration underneath. The lever is dark brown and gold completing the colors of the bank.

To operate, a coin is placed in the mouth of the pony and the operating lever pulled. In so doing the pony lowers his head dropping the coin into the trough. The bottom plate inside the trough, which is also activated by the operating lever, drops down allowing the coin to go inside the base section. On releasing the lever the parts return automatically to their positions. Coins are removed by means of the conventional Shepard rectangular key locked coin trap. Cast into the base plate in large letters is the following: *"Pat'd June 2nd and July 7th, 1885."*

At the time of the production and sale of the Trick Pony, Shepard put out a most attractive colored advertising card picturing the bank in accurate detail. The cards were printed by the Courier Lithographing Company of Buffalo and were distributed by Shepard to various of their sales outlets. Usually the sales agency's name was imprinted on the card. This type advertising card is a quite desirable collector's item today and somewhat difficult to come by. Shepard Hardware would seem to have been one of the main users of these advertising cards insofar as mechanical banks are concerned. However, J. & E. Stevens and several other manufacturers of mechanical banks also employed their use.

Sentry Bank and Try Your Weight Scale Bank by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1973

The writer every now and then checks through his past files, past articles, and so on primarily for the purpose of any possibilities of a slip-up. Well, in so doing recently, he found he had never

written a regular classification article on the Sentry Bank. So to rectify the situation and properly take care of this important bank, we now list it as No. 221 in the numerical classification. When the first known example of the Sentry turned up the writer, at the time, announced its discovery in a rather brief summary — see HOBBIES, August 1964, article titled "Two New Discoveries."

In any case, the Sentry is an exceptionally well made, attractive tin bank of German manufacture, circa late 1920's, early 1930's. The practically mint condition example shown, Figure 1, is now in the Tudor collection. It was one of Wally's prize additions to his great collection during 1972.

The bank is lithographed in bright colors as follows: The booth-like structure is simulated wood grain in brown (two other examples, including the writer's, are plain red-brown, no graining). The background of the figure is pale blue around his hat and face and dark blue-black from the shoulders down. The figure has a black hat with red plume and yellow and black chin strap. Hands and face are natural color, pink cheeks, blue eyes, brown moustache, red lips, black eyebrows and eyelashes. His jacket is red with black collar. Buttons, shoulder and pack straps, belt, and other trim are gray. His sleeve cuffs are black and shaded blue-white. Trousers are blue with red stripes and shoes are black. His gun has a brown stock with other parts including the bayonet in shaded blue-white. The knob on top is black, and that's it for a most colorful bank.

To operate, the top knob is depressed causing the sentry to move his gun to center position as his left arm pivots from the shoulder moving his left hand to center position on the gun stock. His eyes look right and the coin slot is opened from the inside so that a coin may be deposited therein. The horizontal slot is located in the center of his hat, and the bank must be operated in order to insert a coin. Releasing the knob returns all parts automatically to their respective positions as shown in the photo. This includes the blocking of the coin slot from the inside.

That takes care of the Sentry, a quite nice bank to have in a collection.

Another oversight, practically the same circumstances as the Sentry, applies to the Try Your Weight Scale Bank. The announcement of its discovery with details of the bank appeared in HOBBIES, October 1968, but it was not numerically classified. So at this point it is No. 222 in the numerical classification. For complete description, operation, colors, and so on, please see the October 1968 article titled "Some Recent 'Finds.' "

Here again, Figure 2, we have another practically mint condition bank from the extensive Tudor collection. And this too was one of Wally's fine additions to his collection in 1972. The Try Your Weight is a most interesting, well designed tin mechanical of German manufacture. The period of the bank is established by a Butler Bros. Catalog 1907. It is pictured and described in this catalog, and believe it or not it was advertised for sale for only \$1.95 per dozen! What a difference today — try to find one at any price.

As pointed out in the 1968 article, the Try Your Weight is an exceptionally colorful bank and has the very desirable feature of operating by the weight of a coin — penny, nickel, dime, quarter, and half-dollar — each coin by its weight indicated on the dial. Pressing the lever releases the coin from the mechanism and the dial indicator returns to the position as shown in the photo.

The bank is unique in its operation and appearance and makes a most attractive item to have in a collection.

Jolly Joe Clown Bank (Tin) and Hold the Fort – Type II

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June 1973

Continuing along with the writer's checking of his files and past articles he has come across two more mechanicals that have no assigned classification number and more importantly have never been fully covered by a regular classification article. This situation should be rectified, of course, so Jolly Joe will be No. 223 in the numerical classification, and No. 224 is Hold The Fort Type II.

At the time of the discovery of the first known example of the Jolly Joe, an announcement of the fact was made in HOBBIES, July, 1968 article, titled "Mechanical Bank Ramblings." Certain details of the bank were covered in a somewhat brief form in this article and mention was made that a regular classification article would appear on the bank at some future date. So to properly complete our information, we show in Figure 1 an unusually fine example of Jolly Joe in extra nice original condition. Colors of the bank are as follows: The curved top is red and the flanged base is black. The clown's face, a separate stamping fastened to the front, is white with red nose, lips, and marks on cheeks. He has blue highlighting around his eyes, chin, and peaked hat. His eyes are tan with black pupils. His eyebrows are black and various other lines on his face are in black and tan. He has a large red tongue which receives the coin. Tufts of his hair are brown with black lines, his collar is red, white and blue, and his thin hanging arms are like a striped candy or barber pole in red and white. Gloves are white with blue highlighting. "Made In Germany," and the double S appears on his right glove. Underneath the clown's chin there is a raised red rectangular piece, another separate stamping, that contains the operating lever. Under this appears the following verse in black letters:

**"Just to see my tongue appear,
Press the lever down.
I will save your pennies dear,
I'm Jolly Joe, the clown."**

All coloring of the front is on a yellow background, as is the coloring on the sides and back. Each side has red and black triangular markings. The back of the bank has a scene wherein a clown is riding a large pig. The clown, standing on his hands, balances a ladder on his feet and at the top of the ladder there is another clown balancing on his hands. In the background are people seated in circus-like fashion and two pennants on their respective poles fly over the heads of the audience. This scene on the back is in various colors of red, black, brown, white, blue, and yellow. To repeat, this coloring is on a yellow background.

All these bright colors and decorations make for a very attractive bank and, of course, the subject matter of a clown is most desirable. So this bank makes a great addition to the clown group of the mechanicals.

To operate, the lever is pressed down. This causes his large red tongue to protrude from his mouth and his eyes to close. Place a coin on his tongue and raise the lever — his tongue recedes with the coin dropping inside and his eyes open. Reasonably simple, but good action.

There would seem to be no question but that this bank is related to the Minstrel (Tin), Scotchman (Tin), Mickey Mouse (Tin), and possibly several others such as the Monkey And Parrot (Tin), all of German manufacture. The time period of the Jolly Joe is circa late 1920' – early 1930's.

Hold The Fort Type II shown Figure 2 is most easily identified by the seven holes along the front and back sides. Hold The Fort Type I has five holes, (see HOBBIES, March, 1957 article, covering this bank.) There are, however, many other differences between the two banks other than the number of holes. The entire fortress base of Type II, for example, is a completely different

casting and the name "Hold The Fort" appears on the front as shown in the photo.

The Type II shown is in unusually fine original condition, no repairs of any kind, and very nice paint. As to colors, the overall fort is a light tan with the four corners in red. The base is blue and the other parts of the fort, such as the turrets, are in red and blue. The cannon is black with a red-tipped firing lever and the target section is red. The appropriately painted American flag on top of the target housing is not original. As a matter of fact, the writer has as yet never seen an original flag for this bank. So, based on what we have to go on, the flag used on the pictured Type II is entirely appropriate and in keeping with the bank. We know, for example, that an American flag was originally furnished with both Type I and Type II, along with a few shot and caps.

To operate the bank, the cannon is first cocked for firing. A pellet or shot is then put in the end of the barrel. Behind the target there is a provided section to hold a coin and one is placed there. On pressing the trigger the shot fires from the cannon, goes through the center hole in the target and hits the coin knocking it into the base of the bank. Real good action and an interesting, attractive bank. For more realism, the bank was made so that a paper cap could be used in connection with firing the cannon. This, today, is not recommended procedure, however.

The underside of the base has the following cast in large raised capital letters: "Clark's, Patent, Nov. 20, '77." This with direct reference to the patent papers issued to Samuel Clark of Brooklyn, N.Y., November 20, 1877.

The Lighthouse Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1973

The Lighthouse, a most attractive bank, is our choice at this time as No. 225 in the numerical classification. For some years, until fairly recently this mechanical improperly remained in the so-called semi-mechanical group. This group consisted of only 16 banks, 15 of which were actually still banks. The Lighthouse has similar operation to that of two recognized mechanicals, the Safety Locomotive and the Thrifty Animal Bank, plus an additional operation that is not part of either of these banks. This has to do with putting coins in the bank — you don't just drop or push them in the slot.

The Lighthouse shown is really an outstanding example of this bank, all original and no repairs. It is truly in mint condition, a pleasure to see, and one of the finest known to exist. The bank, circa 1890's, fits into the fine Tudor collection like a glove and Wally takes great pride in displaying it among his other mechanicals, quite a few of which are in equal condition. He, like Ed Mosler, the writer, and several other advanced collectors, continually upgrade their banks whenever possible. This is a very important, meaningful part of the challenge of collecting the mechanicals and a true part of the seriously interested discriminating collector. In here comes a genuine liking and appreciation of each individual bank — not just a surface feeling of possessing something regardless of its condition.

A misconception exists among some collectors with respect to the use of pennies in the tower of the Lighthouse. It does not hold just 100 pennies, which are incorrectly used anyway, but in fact will take 125. Those that feel pennies should be used are under the wrong impression in that they think the numbered windows in the tower designate the number of cents therein. These numbered windows in fact do show how many coins are stacked in the tower, however, they are nickels, not pennies. The bank was made to operate properly with nickels only — if pennies are used the numbered windows do not show the proper number of coins.

The colors of the Lighthouse are simple, but effective. The rock-like base and building are a japanned or varnish-like finish. The tower is red and the various numbers over the windows are gold. The sliding drawer-like coin trap is also red. The top operating knob and the ring just under it are nickel plated. The ring, by the way, holds the two-part tower together at the top. It is held together at the bottom by two lugs which also serve to hold the tower in place.

To operate the bank, a nickel is pushed into the slot at the top of the tower. Then the knob is pressed forcing the coin to drop down the tower. The nickel is held in place at the top by two short inward bent flat springs on each side of the inside of the tower. The knob presses the coin through the springs. The springs serve the purpose of not allowing any coins to be removed from the coin slot. A coin once inside the tower cannot be shaken or otherwise maneuvered back up to the slot.

The number of nickels are shown by the numbered windows. One side of the tower is in even numbers — 10, 30, 40, 60, 70, 80, and 90. The other side has 15, 35, 45, 65, 75, and 85. After the deposit of 98 to 100 nickels the top knob is pressed and this activates a spring in the drawer like coin trap at the bottom of the tower allowing the trap to be pulled out by its handle.

The bank has another coin slot in the roof of the building and coins may be deposited therein. There is a round trap under the building for removal of coins saved in this fashion. So actually the Lighthouse is a combination of two banks in one — a still bank and a mechanical — since in each case coins are saved in different and separate compartments, each with its own coin trap. A somewhat unique situation in a mechanical since it would have overtones of interest to strictly still bank collectors as well.

A Unique Uncle Sam Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1973

After a necessary waiting period the writer now has proper clearance to pass along information and details with respect to a very special modern mechanical bank. The circumstances surrounding this unique Uncle Sam Bank are as follows —

Early in the fall of 1969 Gordon M. Metcalf, then Chairman of the Board of Sears, Roebuck and Co., accepted President Nixon's request to serve as Chairman of the 1970 U.S. Industrial Payroll Savings Campaign.

One of Mr. Metcalf's first tasks was to select a committee of 45 top industrial leaders to help reach the high quotas he intended to set. He chose well. Together, these men achieved better than 110 per cent of their ambitious goal, with over 2,200,000 new or increased pledges.

For many years, previous Chairmen of this campaign had recognized the efforts of their committee with a memento of service. But Mr. Metcalf wanted to give more than just a memento. He wanted to give each member a remembrance that was both unique and appropriately related to the job they had done.

In searching for such an unusual item he remembered having seen Wally Tudor's extensive collection of antique mechanical banks. So he talked to him about the possibility of giving each man an original bank much like the ones in Wally's collection.

Wally explained the difficulty anyone would have in acquiring so many different banks of comparable value and condition, but he thought the problem wasn't unsolvable. He suggested they take the most appropriate bank they could find and have it recreated in a limited edition. The Uncle Sam Bank from Wally Tudor's private collection became the perfect choice.

As soon as the decision was made, the job was turned over to the Research and Engineering

Department of Sears. Wally reasoned . . . they've probably got enough talent to launch a Sputnik, so they ought to have enough to make a cast iron mechanical bank of the same high quality that craftsmen in Civil War days were able to achieve. And he was right.

One of the first decisions the research people made was *not* to make a replica of the old bank by casting from the original. Instead, they decided to create a new original by scaling the old bank 1-1/4 inches shorter and making new molds that could reproduce the quality they were determined to achieve.

Many highly skilled craftsmen labored on the detailing of the new Uncle Sam Mechanical Bank. When the casting was finally completed, a search was made for an artisan with the talent, skill and patience to hand-paint each bank, exact in every detail, with the larger model after which it was patterned. They found such a talent in a young black man paralyzed from the waist down.

And so 99 banks were made, each embossed at the bottom with its own individual number from 1 to 99. And then the mold was destroyed.

At the left side of the new bank the official Savings Bond logo is embossed. On the right side there is an inscription that reads, "U.S. Savings Bonds . . . 1970." And under the inscription are the signatures of Richard M. Nixon; David M. Kennedy, then United States Secretary of the Treasury, and Gordon M. Metcalf.

This memento of a job well done was sent to the 45 members of the 1970 Savings Bond Campaign Committee, to the previous National Bond Campaign Chairmen, to key treasury personnel, and to the officers of Sears.

What could have been more fitting than for Uncle Sam to be the symbol of this unique "thank you" gesture?

So there you have the story on a very interesting mechanical with solid authentic background. Quite important is the fact that each bank has individually numbered parts inside. That is to say, the inside parts of the No. 1 bank are numbered No. 1, and this follows for each bank through No. 99 with the inside parts numbered 99. This is really carrying detail to the final point, and there is no other mechanical made in this fashion. To accomplish this required a considerable amount of extra time, detail and patience in assembly.

The name of the young man who did the careful painting is Harold Dickens and he deserves full credit for his meticulous work.

Figure 1 shows the bank with the sideplate having the official Savings Bond logo thereon. Figure 2 shows the sideplate with the three signatures. In Figure 3 Gordon M. Metcalf is presenting the No. 1 bank to President Nixon as David M. Kennedy looks on.

A modern mechanical with charisma and impressive important background. The writer can only wish good luck to all collectors who will want to add this limited production bank to their respective collections.

Japanese Ball Tosser

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1973

There is no question in the writer's mind that so far as his hobby goes the greatest challenge facing him over the years was to be the first collector of mechanical banks to turn up an elusive wind-up tin mechanical known as the Japanese Ball Tosser. All odds seemed to be against this ever becoming a reality. He has had in his possession for some time evidence that the bank had been produced. Heard rumors of one existing in a West Coast collection that never materialized. Now

and then someone thinking they had seen one some place — and so on, but never the bank itself.

All this Japanese Ball Tosser intrigue started in the early days of his collecting, first with rumors that such a bank had been made. Years later in 1955 at the time of the Chrysler sale and disposal of the Corby collection the writer was fortunate enough to obtain a mint condition Ding Dong Bell with the original box. This box as shown in Figure 2 had important bearing on the Japanese Ball Tosser. Please note the wording on the box and the evidence that Weeden Manufacturing Company most surely had made a Japanese Ball Tosser. Then in 1961 he found an old catalog of the Chas. Schmidt Toy & Notion Company, dated October 1, 1888, that pictured the bank for sale at \$9.00 per dozen. Another old catalog also came into his possession that listed the bank for sale.

So to get to the point of all this, at long last, and to the best of the writer's knowledge, we picture in Figure 1 the first Japanese Ball Tosser known to exist. It is necessarily at this point No. 226 in the numerical classification, and is in all original condition except for the head of the figure. This was a clean neat break at the neckline and the part has been properly replaced. It really is one of the great action mechanicals and the balls are tossed up and down 80 times for a penny.

The bank has two companion mechanicals, Weeden's Plantation Darcy Savings Bank and Ding Dong Bell. All three were made by Weeden Manufacturing Company of New Bedford, Mass., and all were covered by the same patent. They have similar spring wound mechanisms with sustained action for a certain length of time.

Colors of the bank are as follows: The sides are blue with wording in gold and coins in silver and copper. Each side is the same as those used on the Ding Dong Bell. The bank has the original paper label on the back with the instructions thereon, and the coin trap is the same as used on the two companion banks. The top is orange-red. The important decorative front of the bank has the stage background in black with gold Japanese writing down the sides. This background section is finely fluted — that is to say fine vertical lines are stamped in the tin. The top overhanging section is in green with gold lettering and gold bamboo representation. The figure has a red jacket or smock with gold dragon and gold bottom and top. The flowing sleeves of his shirt and the skirt-like part of his costume are blue. The inside drape part of the sleeves and his trousers are tan. His shoes are black and hat blue. Face and hands are natural yellowish cast and the features are black, as is his hair. The wooden base or stage on which he stands is orange and the balls are gold. This completes the coloring of a most attractive bank.

To operate the bank the mechanism is first wound, then a coin, as with its companion banks, is pushed into the provided slot in the lower left side. Immediately his arms move up and down as the balls do the same thing, giving the proper effect of his tossing the balls in the air. This action also causes the figure to move slightly from side to side. The juggling takes place for a timed period and on inserting another coin the action is repeated.

Other than the fact the Japanese Ball Tosser may have been made in a limited quantity or over a short period of time, there is no question but that the bank is a very delicate and involved piece of mechanism and this alone could account for its scarcity. It is a quite fragile bank and it is remarkable that the one shown has survived in the nice condition that it is in. To point this up further, take the Weeden's Plantation, which is a not too difficult bank to obtain. But how many do you find in nice original condition? Very limited, since even some of the larger collections do not have a fine example of this bank therein. And the working parts and mechanism of the Japanese Ball Tosser are considerably more delicate and involved than either of its companion banks.

The whole situation surrounding the Japanese Ball Tosser and an example finally coming to light has been a most meaningful experience for the writer. For referral purposes, the Ding Dong Bell article appeared in HOBBIES, October 1954, and Weeden's Plantation, August, 1963.

In closing the writer would like to re-mention the realistic action of the Japanese Ball Tosser. The balls snap into the air in such fashion that it actually looks as though the figures were tossing them.

A final word. Notice in Figure 2 the statement under the three named banks — "and others." Also on the paper label on the back of the Japanese Ball Tosser appears "Weeden Manfg. Co. — New Line Of Mechanical Savings Banks — Six Styles." This poses the possibility that Weeden made three other banks that we know nothing about. A friend of the writer's claims that he had in his hands a bank similar to the Plantation, however, it was a schoolmaster with a paddle spanking a pupil. Years ago the writer heard of such a bank, but it turned out to be only hearsay. So where do we go from here? Only time will tell. We now know of three different kinds of Weeden's banks — could there be a fourth — a fifth — possibly a sixth?

Horse Race — Type II and New Bank — Type I

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1973

Now to the New Bank — Type I, presently No. 228 in the numerical classification. While the operating principle is the same in each bank with the policeman moving to the side, there are considerable differences between Type I and Type II. The principal or outstanding difference is in connection with the operating lever. As pictured, Figure II, the lever is just underneath the feet of the figure and there is a wide slot in the base to accommodate the movement of this lever. The Type II, HOBBIES, September 1966, has the lever located to the side and this required castings unlike those of Type I. The roof castings are quite dissimilar with the Type I in three parts and Type II having four parts. This includes the top cup, the dome, and then two parts to the rest of the roof extensions. Type I has the cup, the dome, and the rest of the roof is a single casting. There are other casting part differences between the two banks, but those detailed above are the main ones and easily recognized. Please remember the Type I as pictured has the operating lever in the center.

It bears mention that the New Bank — Type I is apparently considerably more difficult to obtain than the Type II. The writer was not aware of this until fairly recent times, and this was after some checking around to ascertain if there were many of the Type I in collections. They seem few and far between.

Perhaps a final word is in order with respect to the painting of the Type I. It has more decorative detail with definitions of scrolls, dots, and so on along the sides of the building and over the name on the front.

Once again a little more catching up to do with respect to two mechanicals that have not as yet been assigned a classification number, and of more importance, never been detailed in article form. May the writer take one moment to explain that part of this seeming oversight of certain mechanicals is partly due to some of the Type banks, and while Type I or II, as the case may be, has been covered by an article its mate has not. This is the case with the two banks we presently intend to discuss, Horse Race — Type II and New Bank — Type I.

Under present circumstances the Type II Horse Race will necessarily be No. 227 in the numerical classification. Its companion bank, Type I, appeared in article form in the March 1959, HOBBIES. While the basic operation and action of each bank is alike, there are considerable other differences between the two. Please note the flanged base of Type II in Figure I. This base, unlike that of Type I, also has a screw lock sliding coin trap for removal of coins. The two arches have a cast edging on the peaks as well as down the sides. These arches are held in place by different casting extensions. In overall height the bank is taller than Type I. The writer has never seen a Type

I with the striping around the circular edge and there are other paint differences. There are also other casting differences such as the size of the round indentation in the peak of each arch, and all in all the two banks are quite dissimilar. Each carries the same patent date of August 15, 1871.

Hall's Liliput Bank (Type I)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1973

An apparently tough little bank to obtain is our choice as No. 229 in the numerical classification. This is Hall's Liliput Type I, and as with the New Bank Type I, the writer, until fairly recent years, did not really realize the scarcity of the Liliput Type I. Surely the Liliput Type III with the tray is one of the more common mechanicals and well known by practically every mechanical bank collector. This is not the case with the bank we know as Type I.

John Hall of Watertown, Mass., one of the better known and early designers of mechanical banks, is responsible for the Liliput Type I. He covered the bank by a regular patent May 4, 1875. The drawings with this patent are not too representative of the bank as it was actually produced. However, Mr. Hall was awarded a design patent on the bank July 27, 1875, and this is exactly like the bank itself. Unusual is the fact that the illustration of the Type I used in this patent is an actual photograph instead of the usual drawing. The J. & E. Stevens Company, Cromwell, Conn., manufactured the Liliput, as well as other banks designed by Hall, such as the Horse Race and Hall's Excelsior.

The bank pictured is in quite nice original condition, particularly so for such an early item. That is to say all evidence indicates that it was not made for many years, reasons for which we will point out. Therefore, examples of the Type I were necessarily made in the middle and late 1870's.

There are many differences between Type I and Type III Liliputs. Outstanding is the lack of a tray in the figure's hands, the Type I simply having the coin rest on the extended arms of the figure. Actually the bank does not operate as well as the Type III with the tray. This is one of the reasons for the changeover. Next is the fact the bank is held together by force. That is to say a lug on the top of each sideplate fits into a slot on each side of the roof and two bottom lugs on each of the sides fit into respective slots in the base plate. These lugs snapped into place when the bank was assembled by forcing the lugs into their respective slots. In so doing considerable breakage occurred and the example pictured, as well as the few others the writer has seen, all have a crack or two which occurred at the time of assembly at Stevens. This is another reason for the change to Type III. The sideplates, by the way, hold the front and back of the building in place. As to other differences, the entire building is narrower and there are no perforations in the oval section in back of the figure. The left sideplate has the name "Hall's Liliput Bank" in circular form, the right side has "Patented May 1875 & January 1876" also in circular fashion. On the backplate appears "Pat. Design, July 27, 1875." The January 1876 patent date shown on the bank is for Patent Number 172,016, January 11, 1876. This patent covered the "Method of securing together the various parts. A toy money bank consisting of bottom, sides and top, secured together by means of the lugs or clasps."

As to coloring, the bank is an overall light blue-green. The dome roof is a brick red with yellow top knob. Decorations on the front are in dark brown and brick red. The steps are tan and the oval section back of the figure is a very light blue-white. The figure's face is a light pink flesh color with a black definition of eyes, eyebrows, and moustache. His hair is also black, as is his jacket. He has gray trousers and brick red shirt. Lettering on the sideplates is in the same red. That color was also

used around the base plate, completing the colors of the bank.

John Hall would seem to have been engrossed with the idea that the weight of a coin must cause the action of the bank, and his Liliput is no exception. On placing a coin on the extended arms of the figure the man turns to his left dropping the coin into the provided slot. He returns automatically to position as shown in the picture.

The writer cannot help but admit that he agrees with Hall's apparent philosophy with respect to the necessity of the use of a coin in causing the action. In other words, while we wouldn't necessarily want all mechanical banks to operate on this basis, nevertheless those banks that do not operate properly unless a coin is used certainly have added interest.

British Lion (Tin)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1973

Collecting mechanical banks just has to be one of the more interesting and fascinating hobbies. There is no question but that the writer is prejudiced in this direction, not, however, without sound good reasons to back up his opinion. We will not attempt to go into all these at present — we will point up a phase or two at this time.

Action is one of the keynotes. There always seems to be something going on. Then too the element of surprise enters the picture and this occurs at unplanned-for times. These two factors, action and surprise, greatly enhance the circumstances surrounding the continuing over the years efforts that one puts into collecting mechanical banks.

This brings us to the point of a completely unexpected surprise that happened to the writer recently — one of those pleasurable occasions that seem to come just at the right time. It all has to do with a mechanical bank that the writer knew existed, but it was the only one of all the known mechanicals that he had never seen. So to get to the point, it's the British Lion (Tin) shown herewith. A fine all original mint condition example.

Let's take a moment to explain that the British Lion was known to the writer years ago and existed in a collection that has now remained dormant for a long time. The example in this collection was the only one known to exist and this circumstance has remained unchanged over quite a few years until very recently. And then right out of the blue comes this fine British Lion pictured. Presently, of necessity, No. 230 in the numerical classification.

Due credit must first be given to the charming couple who found this bank. They are Nicole and Emmanuel Rodrigue of Paris, France. They share a very sincere interest in collecting the mechanicals and are personal friends of the writer. They mutually enjoy their hobby and they really work at it. They are a very interesting couple to know and converse with.

The British Lion, while not so marked, is of obvious German origin. As yet we do not know the manufacturer or the exact time period of the bank. At present we place it circa 1910 to 1930. This is a rather broad, but reasonably safe time period.

As to the colors of the bank, the figure of the lion is a typical lion color. The fine details of his mane and so on are done in shadings and lines of gray and black. These details, by the way, are exceptionally well done and very effective toward making it a most attractive interesting looking bank. The figure is on a small red base and the rectangular box coin section in back of the lion is also red. This section has a slide lock top for removal of coins. A large red tongue completes the colors of the bank.

The operation is quite effective. On pressing the lever on the left side of the bank the lower jaw of the lion moves down and a rather large curved red tongue protrudes well out of the mouth. The coin is placed thereon and releasing the lever causes all parts to return to position as shown in the photo. The effect, of course, the lion swallows the coin.

What more can be said? — Just this! — A December, 1936, monthly magazine, carried a well illustrated article on mechanical banks. This article by the late pioneer collector Andrew Emerine had a fine illustration of the British Lion, the only one known at the time. To the best of the writer's knowledge the same circumstance, only one known, still existed some 36 years later! Wouldn't it be interesting to know where the bank pictured has been all these years?

Saluting Sailor Bank (Tin)

by **F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1974**

Once again we take great pleasure in announcing a new find in a mechanical bank, and come to think of it this sure makes a great way to start our articles for 1974. Factually, however, the bank turned up as a new discovery in 1973. The bank is the Saluting Sailor, a very interesting and completely different action type of animated toy savings device. Of necessity, it is presently No. 231 in the numerical classification. While the action of saluting is quite unique, the bank does share a somewhat similar feature with at least one other mechanical. This is the way in which the coin slot is exposed or made useable. The other bank that shares this feature is the Sentry Bank. One could then go further with this coin slot feature and include such banks as the New Bank, U.S. Bank, and possibly several others.

We must once again give due credit to our good friends Nicole and Emmanuel Rodrigue of Paris, France. They were the first to turn up this heretofore unknown mechanical bank which is certainly quite an accomplishment. It couldn't happen to a nicer couple and how fortunate that it would be such an interesting mechanical.

The bank pictured was found by another party subsequent to the Rodrigue's discovery. It is now in the collection of Leon Perelman, and congratulations are in order for this fine addition to his museum. By the way, speaking of the Perelman Museum, for those who have not seen it the writer certainly recommends a visit to a most attractive and appropriate setting for an extensive collection of banks, toys, dolls, and other related items. The surroundings are ideally suitable to the contents of this most interesting museum. Put it on your list as a 'must' place to visit.

The Saluting Sailor shown is in practically mint original condition. It is of German manufacture and the patent designation DRGM is stamped in the underside of the base. While we as yet do not have the exact time period of the bank, there are possibilities it dates in the World War I period or thereabout. Colors are brilliant and attractive with the representation in back of the figure in red, yellow and two shades of gray. There is a wide black stripe at the knees of the figure, and below this is a wider stripe in red. The figure of the sailor has blue trousers with white shirt and hat. Definitions of the tie, hat band and lanyard are black. The chevrons on his left sleeve are blue. Face and hands are sort of a flesh color. Nose, lips and cheeks have red tones and highlighting. The rectangular box coin section in back of the bank is in red, as is the base. All this adds up to a quite attractive colorful bank.

The action of the bank is really great and unique as compared to all the other mechanicals. Figure 1 shows the bank before or after the action. Figure 2 shows the bank after the lever is pressed and ready to receive a coin. As you will note his left arm and hand move down exposing

the slot so that a coin may be inserted therein and, of course, he raises his right hand to the saluting position. Releasing the operating lever causes all parts to return automatically to position as shown in Figure 1. Coins are removed by means of a lock trap in the base.

In closing it bears mention that we are not certain as yet as to the representation in back of the figure. It is most likely some type of hatch on a ship or possibly a submarine. Future research may hopefully confirm this in a definitive area.

Fortune Teller Savings Bank (Original Label)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1974

The Fortune Teller Savings Bank is one of the less attractive mechanicals since it is a rather plain nickel plated safe type bank. This opinion seems to be pretty general among most collectors of mechanical banks. The writer has never heard anyone say they particularly liked the Fortune Teller Savings. There has been, however, at least one example of this bank having a most attractive original paper label on the back. This particular example of the bank had considerable interest to the writer and at long last it has finally come into his possession.

Smith's Antiques of Mt. Union, Pa., purchased the bank at an antique show in 1963. They, in time, sold it to one of the old line collectors where it remained for some years, more or less, under wraps and unnoticed. Be that as it may, we are now able to picture the back of this particular Fortune Safe, which is the only one known to the writer with the original paper label intact.

To begin with, there are several variations of the Fortune Teller Safe — some having design work on the top plate — some a plain top plate. Others have design work on the operating lever. Also, there are examples having the date "Pat Feb 19, 1901" on the bottom, while others simply have "Pat" on the underplate. In any case, the writer does not know if all known examples of the bank originally had a paper label on the back. The smooth back plate would indicate this to be the case, however, it is entirely possible that the label was used only for a certain length of time during the manufacturing period of the bank. Another factor to keep in mind is the fact the smooth nickel-plated back plate did not lend itself to anything sticking thereon with any degree of permanency.

The label as pictured just about covers the entire back plate of the safe. In size it measures 3-1/2 inches wide by 3-3/4 inches long. A peaceful country scene is shown with two brown horses and a covered wagon in the background of green trees. A pitched tent is to the right, and to the left, a dog is running after a small boy. Two ladies are seated in the foreground, one wearing a yellow puffed sleeve blouse with red skirt and hat and holding a blue umbrella in her right hand, the other wears a red dress and yellow hat. They are seated before a barrel on top of which is the Fortune Teller Safe. The woman on the right has a coin in her left hand ready to insert in the bank. The name of the bank (above the scene) is in red, and the date 'Patented Feb. 19 –1901' is in black. The section under the scene has the directions for operating the bank. The background is green and the decorative outline part with the directions is yellow. The directions in black are:

"Drop the coin in the slot of the lever. Then push the lever back hard and quick. This will spin the wheel of fortune. When the wheel stops, pull the lever forward as far as possible and your true fortune will appear at the window every time."

At the bottom of the red border of the label appears "MF'G'D By Baumgarten & Co., Baltimore, U.S.A." Please note in the directions after the first sentence a hand is pictured holding a coin. This can be seen in the photo.

That's it for this important label which most certainly adds interest and some attraction to the Fortune Teller Savings Bank. As a matter of fact, this is the only mechanical that, in the writer's

opinion, looks better and should be displayed with the back showing rather than the front. For more information on the bank itself and a front view, please see HOBBIES, December 1968, classification article. Also the January 1964, HOBBIES announced the discovery of the interesting example of the bank pictured herewith.

Two Clock Type Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1974

Mechanical banks that were made to look like watches or clocks are rather few and far between. In the more than 20 years that these articles have been written only two watch mechanicals have appeared, along with one clock type. The clock bank covered is a very rare item and actually utilizes a regular working clock.

This is the Time Lock Savings Bank, HOBBIES, September 1969. The Time is Money Bank (HOBBIES, May 1959) could be a fringe bank in the clock and watch category, but it does not actually represent nor is it in the form of either one. So to get to the point we now come to the unusual circumstances of classifying two clock type mechanical banks, the Registering Dime Savings Bank, No. 232 in the numerical classification, and the "Time" Registering Bank, No. 233. Let us make one thing clear right now, these are mechanical banks, not just registering banks. True the word "registering" appears in the name of each bank, but as with the Perfection Registering Bank (HOBBIES, September 1959) there is a lot more to each bank than simply having the amount registered. Also true, however, is the fact that each bank could be included in a collection of registering banks if one so chooses.

The Registering Dime Savings Bank, Figure 1, has the configuration of an 1890-1910 period oak case mantle or shelf clock. It is a well made nickel plated cast iron casting with nice detail. The clock face is paper and the hands are the same as those used on a regular clock. A beveled glass protects the face and hands. The name Registering Dime Savings Bank appears on the door as shown in the photo.

The 1891 Premium Supplement for the Ladies Home Journal has an excellent picture of the bank and well describes it as follows:

A REGISTERING SAVINGS BANK

Given as a Premium for a Club of 5 Yearly Subscribers at \$1.00 each; or, for 4 Subscribers and 25 cents extra; or, for 3 Subscribers and 50 cents extra. Price, \$1.50. Sent by Express, charges to be paid by the receiver.

This Bank indicates, at all times, the exact amount contained. A coin cannot be deposited without being accurately registered. The first coin locks the door, which cannot be locked in any other manner, nor can it be again opened until full amount for which the Bank is set has been deposited — then — it opens automatically — and no money can be removed until the door has unlocked itself!

This is one of the few Savings Banks which successfully defy ingenuity, and which refuses to be opened. No money can be extracted by anyone, until the full amount has been deposited, and no one can tamper with it without being detected by the figures. These banks are sold by the Fire-proof Safe Companies. Strongly made of cast iron, handsomely nickel plated. Packed in a strong wooden box.

Price \$1.50. Sent by Express, charges to be paid by the receiver.

Adding to this description, the minute hand moves automatically with each dime deposited. Ten

dimes are necessary to complete the circle of the dial by the minute hand. When this is done the hour hand moves to the figure 1 indicating \$1.00 in the bank. After the deposit of \$10.00 the door front with the name thereon automatically drops forward. Only dimes can be used in the bank and the weight of each coin causes the action.

The "Time" Registering Bank, Figure 2, is somewhat larger than the Dime Registering Bank as described above, and while different in configuration it too represents an oak mantle or shelf clock of the same period. It too is a nickel plated finely detailed cast iron casting with paper dial, regular clock hands, and beveled glass. Fortunately the original paper label is intact on the back of this bank. We quote from this label as follows:

Time Lock Registering Bank For Dimes

The Bank cannot be locked unless both hands point to 0.

To lock the Bank place the door in position and press it firmly. Place a dime in the chute and pull the chute quickly right, then to the left and the dime will then be deposited, the door locked, and the amount registered on the dial.

When 100 dimes (\$10.00) are deposited, the bank will unlock and the door drop out. The long hand registers cents, the short hand registers dollars. When one hundred dimes are deposited and both hands point to 0 the Bank unlocks.

Patent Applied For I.B. & W. Co.

The back section on which the paper label appears is finished in a heavy black enamel. The time period of the bank is approximately the same as that of the Registering Dime Savings Bank. Please note it is necessary to move the chute right and left to cause the action on the "Time" Registering Bank. The weight of the dime does not automatically move the hands as with the Registering Dime Savings Bank. Otherwise the operations of each bank are the same.

These two clock type banks make quite interesting additions to a collection of mechanicals. They have a rather different attractive appearance and are very difficult to find in the fine all original condition as the one pictured in Figure 1. The bank described in Figure 2 is not the one pictured. That is to say the bank pictured was in the writer's collection but he recently upgraded it with the described one having the original paper label and in excellent all original condition.

Rival Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1974

Mechanical banking in 1973 was nothing short of spectacular. There were a number of new finds, including the very interesting Saluting Sailor. Then, after all the years, three British Lions, each in fine condition. Who would have thought not one, but two Seek Him Frisk Banks, a very rare, great action item could possibly turn up in the same year. A very nice example of the rare Bank Teller showed up in California. Strangely enough the last one came to light in the same State, but this was some 20 odd years ago. Then after all the years that mechanical banks have been collector's items the first known example of the Japanese Ball Tosser was found in Pennsylvania. And if all that isn't enough, how about a Rival Bank, which, to the best of the writer's knowledge, is the second one known to exist. This is an early rare bank with a puzzling name and of necessity at this time No. 234 in the numerical classification.

The fine, original Rival shown has found a good home in the collection of Wally Tudor of Chicago, Ill. Wally is really interested in mechanical banks, he goes after them, offering good, tough competition in this specialized field of collecting. One of his highlights for 1973 was the acquisition of the Rival Bank and he is to be congratulated on the addition of this rare mechanical to his collection.

The Rival was patented by Daniel James McLean of Reading, Pa., May 21, 1878. The bank, as manufactured, is practically identical to the patent drawings with one exception. In the drawings the spring or accentuating mechanism that causes the monkey to operate is shown in three forms, all of which go through the building front to back. The bank as produced simply has a spring at the pivot end of the arm, the monkey being an integral part of this arm at the other end. As to the somewhat puzzling name Rival, it is probably best explained and analyzed by quoting a part from the text of the patent.

"The advantages of my (McLean's) toy bank are, first that it holds more money than any other bank of the same size, on account of the small space taken up by the entrance chamber chute; secondly, that any size of coin from a cent to a trade-dollar, may be deposited with equal facility; and, lastly, that the working of the figure will cause great amusement to the children."

So in effect we can judge from this statement of the three advantages that the bank rivaled (equaled or excelled) any other mechanical bank made at the time. McLean in his patent also made a point that coins could not interfere with any working mechanism of the bank and that a larger interior space was provided than was generally the case in toy banks with operating figures. So taking everything into account with respect to the bank being named Rival, the text of the patent papers, in part, would certainly logically furnish reason enough.

The bank shown is in very nice original condition with no repairs. The roof is red and the rest of the bank is basically a brown color. The monkey has white eyes and a red mouth. The name "Rival" is on the front of the bank, Figure 1, and the patent date "May 21, 1878" is on the back, Figure 2.

The operation of the bank is simple but with good action. The monkey is pushed, or if you will, pulled down into position as shown in Figure 1. A coin is placed in the provided slot formed by his arms. Release his tail and up he goes depositing the coin into the bank. The monkey's head hits a bumper inside the chute which serves the double purpose of releasing the coin and absorbing the shock. The normal position of the monkey is shown in Figure 2 with his tail curving over the front chimney. The bank is a particularly fine early casting and the monkey with his head turned as though looking at the operator is a point of interest.

And, before we forget it, there were many other fine mechanical banks turned up in 1973 by various collectors. We only highlighted a few of the outstanding finds in our first paragraph, in the foregoing.

Feed the Goose Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1974

Feed The Goose, our choice as No. 235 in the numerical classification, is a rather late bank which is, however, very difficult to find in nice original condition and shape or configuration, This is particularly true with respect to the large egg under the goose. The bank is made of a pot metal of apparent poor quality subject to distortion, cracking and chipping. A line of comparison could be drawn with the type drive wheels used on many standard or wide gauge electric train engines of the period. The wheels just seem to disintegrate and fall apart being castings of apparently similar type

poor quality pot metal. It certainly seems a shame that the Feed The Goose was not made with some type quality metal casting as it is a quite clever bank in its design and action. The somewhat angular appearance of the figure of the goose is rather offbeat, but this at the time of its manufacture was most probably an attempt to give the bank a "modern" look. In any case, the bank as its subject matter represents the famous old story of the goose that laid the golden egg.

The Feed The Goose was until quite recently classed in with the modern group of mechanicals and thus made after 1935. Patent papers reveal that this is not the case, however, and as a matter of fact it was patented August 7, 1928, by Douglas Hall of Chicago, Illinois. The bank as produced is practically identical to the patent drawings, which are, by the way, exceptionally well detailed. As a matter of interest, the text of the patent refers to the figure as that of 'a grotesque goose'.

A printed sheet of suggestions and directions was originally furnished with each bank. This details with a drawing the method of removing the goose from the egg. In one place it refers to the bank as the "Golden Egg" Bank, and in another "Feed The Goose". Under 'Suggestions' various points are explained such as the fact pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters can be used to operate the bank. Larger denominations and paper money can be deposited in the special coin trap in the bottom of the egg. Also, one coin at a time must be used to operate the bank properly, with the coin dropping into the egg before another is inserted. The sheet is printed on both sides and folded. The back of the sheet is of particular interest and we quote as follows:

Aesop's Fable "The Goose With the Golden Eggs" was written long ago, but the moral it teaches is needed today as much as in Aesop's time.

If you work but do not save, you are killing your Goose, for when the Goose died the Eggs ceased to come. When you cease work, your income stops, unless you have saved Part of Your Earnings.

Feed the Goose often and it will "Lay Your Golden Eggs".

The Small Change you feed your goose will change your Future from Dependence to Independence.

"FEED THE GOOSE"

The bank pictured is in far better condition than most in spite of the somewhat distorted egg and flaking of the paint on the bird. The egg is gold, the bird a bronze color with yellow bill, red wings, and a silver tail. He has green glass eyes. The brass metal plate on the front of the egg has a red background. Imprinted on the plate appears 'The Union National Bank "Feed the Goose" Fostoria, Ohio'. The special coin trap in the base plate of the egg has the following stamped thereon: 'Bankers Thrift Corp. Chicago Patented'.

To operate, a coin is dropped into the open mouth of the goose, the bill closes and re-opens, the wings flap up and back down, and the tail flaps up and back down. The weight of the coin causes this action as it travels through the body of the bird on into the egg.

In closing, it bears mention that the writer has seen this bank with the bird finished in purple, silver, red, and the bronze color mentioned. Wings and the glass eyes also are in various colors, including red, blue, and pink, The writer's example of the bank, not the one pictured, does not have the name Feed The Goose on the front brass plate, the egg fortunately, has no distortion, and, of course, the original paper sheet as described in the foregoing.

Chandlers Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1974

Checking into the background of mechanical banks can be a very interesting, but sometimes frustrating situation. On the interesting side let's take for example a mechanical bank with absolutely nothing on it, that is to say no patent date or information of any kind is on the bank. In certain cases with considerable research through patents, old catalogs, and the like we have been able to assemble complete background information as to the designer, manufacturer, period in which the bank was made, and so on. This, of course, is great and quite rewarding. On the other hand, the ideal situation is to have a patent date to work with since some of the unmarked mechanicals remain without complete factual background. Now to the frustrating situation, this involves a mechanical bank that may have the name of a company and the city right on the bank itself and we can find absolutely nothing about it. A typical example of this is the 20th Century Savings Bank. Here is a bank with the company name and the city, Pittsburgh, Pa., cast right on the bank and the writer has been unable to date to find definitive information of any kind. A lot of time has been spent in research with respect to this bank with no results to show for it, and this Pittsburgh bank has really bugged the writer.

Well we are up against the same situation as we reach our choice as No. 236 in the numerical classification. This is the Chandlers Bank, and up to now in spite of a company name and the city, the writer has been unable to run into anything but a stone wall. And this is after a considerable amount of time and effort on the part of the writer and several other individuals.

The large impressive well made locking coin trap is, strangely enough, one of the main features of this bank. It is located in the underside of the base and utilizes a well made lock. On the coin trap itself in large raised letters appears the name of the bank, "Chandlers Bank." Underneath this appears "Pat AP" then "Natl Brass Wks Cleveland." At this point the writer would like to make mention of the fact that he has in no way given up on researching this bank and sooner or later he expects to get it nailed down.

In any case, the Chandlers Bank is circa 1900 or so. This could be somewhat into the 1910 period. It has a type of electrolytic bronze finish that was used in this period. Also, it is a combination of cast iron and heavy sheet metal stamping used in this time period. And it was made by the National Brass Works as indicated on the bank itself.

It is a very well made solid bank of the disappearing coin in the drawer type. The front and sides of the drawer, by the way, are made of brass or bronze. To operate, pull the drawer open and place a coin therein. Close drawer and re-open and the coin has disappeared. This Bank's operation is the same as several of the wooden bureau type that have previously appeared in article form. As can be noted in the photo, there is a handle on top and the front is quite decorative in a highly raised casting. The name "Savings Bank" appears under the drawer. A fluted column is on each side of the front.

As mentioned, the finish of the bank gives the appearance of being brass or bronze and highlighted streaks run through this finish. Also, as mentioned, it is an exceptionally sturdy bank and could obviously stand a degree of rough treatment. On this basis one would think that it would be an easy bank to come by — not so, it is a rather difficult bank to find and particularly so with the bronze finish in good or better original condition.

The Chandlers pictured is a fine all original example of this somewhat unusual bank. This includes the original coin trap, which in the case of this bank is quite important.

Bull Dog Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1974

There is no question that certain mechanical banks have more appeal than others and that this appeal varies from collector to collector. Many and varied are the reasons why a certain mechanical bank is a favorite to different individuals. The subject matter of a bank is most certainly a governing factor and this had a lot to do with its general popularity during the period in which it was made. Some mechanicals were made over a period of years due to their general appeal to the public and to satisfy the demand quantities of the respective banks were manufactured. In most cases this popularity has carried down to the collector of today. That is to say some of the more available mechanicals are very definitely favorites of many of today's collectors.

It would be difficult, for example, to imagine anyone saying they disliked the Tammany Bank, certainly one of the most common of the mechanicals. Well this was the favorite of all the mechanical banks to the late John D. Meyer and he kept it under a special glass dome in his collection. He had his reasons for this, of course, as we all do with respect to certain favorite banks, and they need not be rare or highly valuable mechanicals.

Certainly our choice as No. 237 in the numerical classification, the Bull Dog Bank, well represents one of the favorites of many mechanical bank collectors, including the writer. It has appealing subject matter, exceptionally clever action, and while somewhat fierce in its appearance, it is a rather good looking proportionate bank. It was a popular item in its day and that popularity continues with today's collectors.

The Bull Dog Bank was patented April 27, 1880 by J. H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa. It was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company, of Cromwell, Conn. Stevens in manufacturing the bank fairly well followed the outline and drawings of the patent. Bowen was one of the more talented designers of mechanical banks and to the best of our knowledge all of his patented mechanicals were manufactured by Stevens. He certainly had a fine touch with clever mechanisms and all of the mechanicals he designed enjoyed wide popularity in their day.

The Bull Dog Bank shown is in exceptionally fine all original condition with colors as follows: The figure of the dog is of the brindle type, mottled brown with white markings. He has brown glass eyes and a red tongue. His collar is dark brown with gold spikes and buckle. The dog sits on a blue drape effect with white highlighted fringe. This in turn, the dog and drape, are on a rectangular box-like affair painted dark brown. The name "Bull Dog Bank" is in red. This does not show in the picture as it is along the opposite side plate in large letters. The underside of the base plate is perforated with round holes and the patent date appears as follows: 'PATD APR 27 1880'. A conventional type round Stevens trap is in the base plate.

To operate the bank a coin is first placed on the provided space on top of the dog's nose. The dog's tail is then pulled down. This causes the neck to recede into the body as his mouth snaps open (lower jaw drops down). The rear part of the coin rest section on the nose rises up and this causes the coin to slide forward from the nose dropping into the open mouth and on through the body of the dog into the base receptacle. Releasing the tail all parts return automatically to the positions as shown in the photo. It's a nice action bank and leaves little to be desired in this area. The mechanical operation of catching the coin in the mouth from the nose is unique and there is no other old mechanical bank like it. In the modern category of the mechanicals there is a Scottie Dog that does the same trick.

A final word — the Bull Dog Bank possibly more often than brindle coloring has the dog painted black with white spots, and in this case the drape is red and the base section black.

Owl Type 1 (Slot in Head)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1974

A bank that on the surface would seem easy to come by, but in fact is surprisingly difficult to obtain, is our choice as No. 238 in the numerical classification. This is the Owl Type I (Slot In Head) which simply doesn't turn up too often and particularly so in good to better paint condition. Over the years numbers of collectors have stated their opinion that the Owl Type I was an underrated mechanical. This is quite true up to a point, and the point is that it has a companion Owl Type II (Slot In Book) which is rather common as banks go and certain collectors will settle for this common type and not be concerned if they never get the rare one. Be that as it may, it is definitely preferable to have the pair as each bank adds to the other from an interest standpoint.

The Owl Type I was a member of a "family" group of mechanicals made by the Kilgore Manufacturing Company, Toytown Workers Division, Westerville, Ohio. Kilgore advertised the banks as "The Toytown Workers Group of Animal Banks" and "The Thrifty Four." They were known individually as Blinky the Owl, Flop-Ears the Rabbit, Jug-O-Rum the frog, and Pokey the Turtle. The stumbling block, and it's a big one, to assembling this "family" group is the Turtle. As of this writing only six existing collectors have been able to accomplish this difficult task. And that's not very many when you consider that collectors of mechanical banks number in the thousands.

There is a certain degree of mystery as to why the Turtle was made in such a limited quantity when, for example, such a large quantity of the Rabbit was manufactured. It is doubtful if we will ever have the complete factual story behind all this, and while in a way it would be interesting to know, it doesn't really matter. What we do know is important — the production of the Turtle was extremely limited, and next to this as far as the "family" goes is the Owl Type I. As compared to the Turtle, many more Owls with the slot in the head were produced, but again not in the near quantities of those of the Owl Type II, The Frog, or the Rabbit.

Also somewhat of a mystery is why the Owl was made in two ways — slot in the head and slot in the book. Logically two factors would enter into this situation. One, easier production and assembly of the slot in book, and two, the mechanism of the slot in head did not function or hold up as well in usage.

The bank shown is in nice all original condition and colors are as follows: An overall coat of light tan was first applied to the figure, then a dark brown was applied in a sort of toned and shaded fashion leaving the upper two thirds of the front of the owl in light tan. The beak is orange as are the eyes which have black pupils.

To operate the bank a coin is pushed into the slot in top of the owl's head. This causes the eyes to roll downward and they return to position as the coin falls inside the figure. A well made key lock coin trap is provided in the base. It is of interest to note that the same kind of trap was used in each of the "Thrifty Four." Except for the earlier type I Owl, the traps were in the main brightly nickel plated. Please remember too that in having two Owls the group numbers five, not four, and if one wants to carry to the extreme there is a variety of the Turtle Bank that could be considered by a collector of varieties as a sixth member. To date we know of no different types or varieties of either the Frog or Rabbit.

For the record the group of Kilgore banks are now known by the following names — Owl Type I (Slot In Head), Owl Type II (Slot In Book), Frog On Rock, Rabbit In Cabbage, and Turtle Bank. They are all exceptionally sturdy banks securely put together with rather simple but well

constructed mechanisms with little to go wrong.

Another possible factor with having the slot in head changed to the book, the coin could not be inserted to the front part of the slot or directly in the center of the slot. It must be pressed into the slot from the top back of the head. It's possible this operation was judged to be somewhat more difficult for a child as compared to the slot in the book.

Rumors are around concerning the possibility of another Turtle Bank having come to light. If this turns out to be factual it will be the seventh one known to exist and this poses the further possibility of a seventh existing collector to have the complete Kilgore group or a variety collector in possession of two Turtles.

William Tell Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1974

Sometime ago the writer mentioned in one of the articles that certain of the more common banks were among the most interesting and attractive of the mechanicals. This is certainly true and as we reach No. 239 in the numerical classification, our choice of the William Tell Bank proves our point quite well. It is a very attractive bank with excellent action and subject matter. The coin taking part in the action, in this case representing an arrow, is a particularly desirable feature. Every aspect of the William Tell Bank makes it one of the great mechanicals and certainly it is anything but a rare bank. Rarity naturally is a big factor in collecting mechanical banks and increasingly so as the collector becomes more advanced. At the same time most of us are inclined, as we move along, to lose sight of an appreciation of the really great mechanicals that are in the more common category.

The William Tell enjoyed tremendous popularity over the many years it was manufactured. It had great appeal to the general public and in its period was the type toy that many parents would buy for their child. It appealed to grownups then as it does now, different today only from the collecting angle. In other words, the same appeal is there, but now it has become a collector's item. As a collector's item it is one of the more easily obtained mechanicals and this is due, of course, to its wide acceptance over a period of years and the large quantity that were made to fill this acceptance. Also because of this it is one of the mechanicals that can be found in fine to so called mint condition more readily than most.

The William Tell was designed by Russell Frisbie of Cromwell, Conn., and patented by him under a design patent June 23, 1896. He assigned his design patent covering the bank to the J. & E. Stevens Company, also of Cromwell. The design drawings are practically identical to the bank as manufactured by Stevens. The text of the patent accurately describes the bank and refers to the shooting figure as being that of William Tell. Defining the figure is more unusual than usual. Design patents are more apt to be specific as to the overall configuration as compared to regular patents. Some mechanicals were covered by both design and regular patent. Generally speaking, however, with respect to regular patents the figure or figures were left in an area of flexibility so that broader coverage was obtained and different figures could be used if so decided when the time came to manufacture the respective banks.

Certainly the story of William Tell is known by everybody and their aunt, so it would seem completely unnecessary to go into detail on that score. In any case, the bank well represents the climax of the story and William does a good job of knocking the apple from his son's head.

The bank shown is in extra fine, all original condition, and colors are as follows: The base is light green with gold highlighting, the castle is light tan with parts of the structure in gold and

black. The boy has a yellow apple on top of his black hair. He wears a red jacket, yellow skirt and yellow boots. Face, arms and knees are light flesh color. William Tell wears a gray hat with red plume and he has the same flesh color face and hands as the boy. His hair, cape and gun are black. The cape has a khaki collar and red lining. His shirt or tunic is black with yellow ruffle sleeves and red belt and edging. He has yellow and cream breeches with khaki boots. Good coloring adding up to a handsome bank.

To operate, the odd shaped piece on the gun barrel is pressed back where it snaps into position as the head of William Tell lowers, taking aim. A coin is placed on top of the barrel just in front of this piece. The boy's right arm is pulled down bringing the apple to the top of his head. Then the right foot of William Tell is pressed down. This fires the gun and the coin shoots forward knocking the apple from the boy's head as he raises his right arm and a bell inside the castle rings. The head of William Tell goes back into position as in the photo. The gun is made in such fashion that a paper cap may be used, and if so it is fired during the action.

The patent date June 23, 1896 is cast in raised letters on the underside of the base. The conventional round Stevens coin trap is under the castle in the base plate.

Speaking Dog Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1974

Another one of those more attractive quite popular in its time mechanical banks is our choice as No. 240 in the numerical classification. This bank, the Speaking Dog, has that very appropriate Victorian look about it and is completely indicative of its time period. In other words, you can just look at the bank and tell with reasonable accuracy the time area in which it was made to represent.

It is a sturdy, well constructed bank with somewhat complicated mechanism and excellent action — all of which is in its favor in making it the desirable collector's item it has become. Since it was made in quantity over a number of years it is one of those banks that can be found now and then in near mint condition, a desirable factor. The Speaking Dog's desirability angle is greatly enhanced by the fact it is a mechanical made for girls. While a number of the mechanical banks could be used by girls, only a very few were made more or less specifically for their use. And girl's banks include some quite rare ones like Girl In The Victorian Chair, Red Riding Hood, Girl Skipping Rope, and the very rare Old Woman In The Shoe. Needless to say, none of these banks are remotely as available as the Speaking Dog. So the bank is one of the only little girl types that is more readily attainable by today's collector.

Mechanicals made in the main for boys greatly outnumber those made for girls. There is a large number, however, that were made which were appropriate to both boys and girls. These include the animal banks, building types, and various others. As example of the scarcity of girl's banks take the rather large group of the bust type mechanicals. Of these only the two type Dinahs and possibly, if one wants to consider it so, the Queen Victoria Bust are really girl's type banks. Understand, however, strictly speaking the Queen Victoria Bust is a commemorative or celebration item, rather than a bank made to appeal to girls only.

The Speaking Dog was patented, as inscribed on the under base plate, July 14, 1885, and October 20, 1885. The patent of October 20, is the important one consisting of three pages of drawings having 17 figures thereon. This is an unusual number of drawings and bears out, as mentioned previously, the rather complicated mechanism of the bank. The patent was issued to Charles G. Shepard and Peter Adams, Jr., of Buffalo, N.Y., said Adams assignor to Walter J.

Shepard of the same place. It was first made by the Shepard Hardware Company and then by J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. Other than variations in the painting, the only differences between the Stevens bank and the Shepard bank are the coin traps. Shepard used their conventional rectangular locking trap and Stevens their regular round coin trap. The outline of the filled in rectangular section for the Shepard trap can be seen on the Stevens Speaking Dog Banks.

The text of the patent consists of two sheets, one full printed on both sides and the other sheet part printed on one side. Of particular interest in the text is the fact that the item held in the girl's right hand, thought by most collectors to represent a mirror, is a fan or tray. The bank as manufactured is practically identical to the patent drawings.

The Speaking Dog shown is in fine all original condition with colors as follows: The entire base and seat is red with the name in gold, and yellow striping above and below the name. The section of the base on which the dog sits is gray. The dog is a tan khaki color with some white highlighting on his paws and ears. He has a gold collar, white eyes, red tongue and pink mouth. The fan or tray held by the girl is black as are her shoes. She wears a red dress with white collar, blue tie, and a brown back bow at her waist. Her hat is yellow with a blue ribbon. Her stockings are light blue. Face and hands are flesh color. Her eyes are white with blue pupils, mouth red, and eyebrows black. Her hair is a blonde color.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the fan or tray. Then all the following happens when the operating lever is depressed — a section of the seat under the fan or tray opens — the right arm moves back dropping the coin into the open seat section — the dog opens his mouth as though barking (lower jaw drops down) — the tail of the dog swings up. On releasing the lever all parts return to position except the tail which is counter balanced so it wags up and down for a short period of time. A very fine action bank with most attractive coloring.

Shepard Hardware, during the period in which they manufactured the Speaking Dog, issued a fine advertising card in colors showing the bank in an attractive room setting. This is a quite desirable item to have along with the bank and more difficult to come by than an example of the bank itself.

A Pleasant Visit and the Queen Victoria Bank **by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1974**

A thoroughly pleasant visit, an enjoyable dinner, a chance to see a great collection of early American tin toys, a collection of mechanical banks and cast iron toys, folk art, weather vanes, fine decorative pieces all displayed most attractively in a unique highly imaginative specially designed type of building that almost defies description. Sufficient to say everything about the structure is keyed to the display of the collections and the pleasure of living with them.

Barney Barenholtz and his late wife Edith shared an intense interest in their respective hobbies, one hobby overlapping into the other. Edith was a highly unusual lady of great talent, sharing her interests with many, and many will miss the irreplaceable woman that she was.

Princeton, N.J., would seem to be ideally situated to the life style of the Barenholtz. Their home, gardens, attached housing for the collection all seem to fit in nicely with the surroundings. There is no doubt about it Barney has some fine pieces in the early tin toys, a very nice collection of cast iron toys, and in his collection of mechanical banks, mostly from the late Ed Richards' collection, is the rare Queen Victoria Bust Bank. To the best of the writer's knowledge, this is still the only example of the Queen Victoria known to exist in a private collection. So the opportunity was there on the occasion of the writer's visit with Barney to examine the bank thoroughly and this he did. At

long last now, and long overdue with no particular fault of anyone — we are able to pass along information on the Queen Victoria Bank.

To get this by the boards we have no choice at this time but to classify the bank as No. 231 in the numerical classification, although it naturally belongs considerably further up in the listing. This is not important — the important thing is to have the bank properly covered in article form as it is herewith.

The Queen Victoria Bank is a commemorative or celebration type item of great interest. We have so far not been able to pin it down to any one of the English manufacturers. The writer leans toward Harper, although he has no proof one way or the other. In any case, it is one of the really well cast English bust type banks and rather sizeable being 8¾ inches in height to top of crown. The date of the bank is well established by the bank itself since it was made for the Jubilee of 1887, celebrating 50 years of rule by Queen Victoria.

Following are the inscriptions in raised letters that appear on the bank — Lower front of bust "Jubilee 1887 God Save The Queen" — Lower right side of bust — "PATENT No 14197" — Back of bust "Born May 24th 1819 Crowned June 20th 1837 Married Feby 10th 1840." Certainly unusually great identification to have on a mechanical bank.

The coloring of the bank is rather dulled and it looks as though it may have been completely varnished or shellacked years ago leaving an overall dark color to the bank. In any case, the face is flesh color with red lips, the flowing hair cover or snood is tan, and her hair is black. Earrings, crown, and necklace are a japanned color, her dress top is brown with a red bow on the dress front left side. A perforated base plate with round holes is finished in a japanned color.

To operate the bank a coin is dropped into the provided slot located in the top of the crown, the weight of the coin causes the eyes to move up and down. The eyes are counter balanced and the coin hits an extension piece causing them to move for a period of time. In a fashion, the counter balanced action could be compared to the lower jaw of the whale on the Jonah & Whale Bank. Accumulated coins are removed from the bank by removing the perforated base plate.

In thinking through on the rarity and scarcity of the Queen Victoria Bust, it is no doubt due to the fact that it was a one occasion item for the year 1887, and unlike most other mechanicals, not made over a period of time or years. So production would have been limited even though a fair quantity may have been made.

Trick Dog Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1974

A really nice circus type bank, the Trick Dog — Type I, is our choice as No. 242 in the numerical classification. This bank well represents the circus as a subject matter, particularly from the clown standpoint having a fine figural representation of a clown holding a hoop centered on top of the bank.

There are some great circus theme mechanical banks forming an interesting group mainly from the angle of clowns. These include the rather rare Circus Bank, Elephant And Three Clowns On Tub, Humpty Dumpty, Jolly Joe (Tin), Bill E. Grin, the quite rare Clown Bank (Bust), Clown Bank (Tin), the rare Clown On Bar, Clown On Globe, the hard to find Clown and Dog (Tin), Clever Dick Bank (Tin), and the Hoop-la Bank. This an impressive group of mechanicals, all with the circus as a subject matter and all having the desirable clown feature.

Other than these, there are a couple of the Elephant banks and one or two other mechanicals that fit in nicely with the circus group. These would include Jumbo, possibly the Royal Trick Elephant, and the later solid base Trick Dog — Type II, companion to the Trick Dog under discussion.

And last, but not least, the Circus Ticket Collector. Then taking a step further, a collector if he so chooses could justify placing in the group the mechanical which stands on its own with its own one of a kind theme and subject matter.

The Trick Dog was patented July 31, 1888, and made by the Hubley Manufacturing Company of Lancaster, Pa. Hubley made at least three different mechanical banks over a long period of years and as a matter of fact were the last major producer of cast iron toys to go out of the active manufacturing of mechanical banks. They were still making the three mechanical banks in the late 1930's. These were the Trick Dog (Solid Base), Elephant Howdah, and the Monkey Bank.

The Trick Dog shown is in extra fine all original condition. Colors are as follows: The clown has a red, yellow and blue hat. His costume is red, blue, yellow, maroon and white. For example, half his jacket is red and the other half blue — one leg covering is red, the other blue. His shoes are gray and face white with red markings. He is a highly colorful figure. The dog is tan with white markings and a black nose. The barrel is tan with straps in gray. The top of the base is gray with side and end plates in red. Yellow outlining is around the base plate and the name is in gold as are the two decorations on either side of the name. All in all an exceptionally colorful bank.

To operate the bank a coin is placed in the dog's mouth, a lever in the end plate is then depressed. The dog springs up and forward going through the hoop and stopping just over the barrel. The coin falls from the dog's mouth into the barrel and on into the base of the bank. A locking coin trap is provided under the barrel in the base plate. The dog is manually pushed back down into position as shown in the picture, ready for another coin. Nice action and a most attractive bank to have in a collection of the mechanicals.

Humpty Dumpty Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1975

The ever popular circus theme continues as we reach No. 243 in the numerical classification and our choice of the Humpty Dumpty Bank. As a subject matter the circus theme offers a varied and appealing group of performers, both people and animals. Insofar as mechanical banks are concerned, clowns would seem to be in the majority and dominate the circus group. And what could be more appropriate than a clown from a child's viewpoint in a toy animated savings device. The main manufacturers of mechanical banks such as J. & E. Stevens, Shepard Hardware Company, and Hubley Manufacturing Company all made circus type mechanical banks and two better known English manufacturers, John Harper & Company, Ltd. and Chamberlin and Hill, Ltd. did the same. This was a wise choice, particularly so with Stevens, Shepard, and Hubley since several of their clown-circus banks enjoyed wide popularity over a number of years in their period.

The Humpty Dumpty is an exceptionally well made representation of a clown and a member of the bust group as well as the circus group. It was made by the Shepard Hardware Company of Buffalo, N.Y., and well represents their extra care in their fine paint work. There's no question but that Shepard excelled in the painting of their mechanicals. Particularly so with detail of eyes on the various figures of their banks. Generally speaking, Shepard used a rather heavy coat of paint on the overall respective bank. This was good, but what is disadvantageous about it is the fact that with age the paint tends to chip rather readily, at least as compared to some of the Stevens banks with

lighter coats of paint. There is a disadvantage here also, however, since light coats of paint, while they did not readily chip with age, did tend to wear off somewhat with any degree of handling.

The Humpty Dumpty was patented under a regular patent March 14, 1882, by C. G. Shepard and Peter Adams, Jr. of Buffalo, with Adams as assignor to Walter J. Shepard. This patent actually pictures the Jolly Nigger Bank in the various drawings numbered 1 through 7. The Humpty Dumpty operates the same and has the same mechanism as the Jolly Nigger. Shepard and Adams were then issued a design patent June 17, 1884, covering the configuration of the bank. The design patent drawing is practically identical to the bank as manufactured. Also, and this is unusual, the bank was patented in Canada and registered in England. The individuals involved certainly wanted to be sure no one else would copy their bank. Most certainly in appearance Humpty Dumpty stands alone as made by Shepard with no other bank like it. True there is the rare English Clown Bank bust, but it looks nothing like Humpty Dumpty, although it does operate the same, and was made years after the patents covering Humpty Dumpty ran out.

The bank shown is in rather fine condition, all original with no repairs. While there are some chips in the paint, they are rather minimal for a Humpty Dumpty Bank. Most examples of this bank are considerably more chipped than the one pictured. It's extremely difficult to find a fine example of the Humpty Dumpty. It is a very colorful bank most attractively painted. The peaked hat is bright red as are the eyebrows, lips and markings on his face. His face is white, gray eyes with black pupils, and a red tongue. His collar is a white tinted blue with decorations in brick red, yellow and blue. The right half of his jacket is bright red decorated in yellow, blue, white and brick red. The left half of the jacket is blue decorated in bright red, yellow, white and brick red. The extended right hand is cream color. The name 'Humpty Dumpty Bank' is in raised letters in a half circle on the back. Speaking of the name it would be interesting to know just why Shepard or whoever named the bank Humpty Dumpty. This has always puzzled the writer but so far he has not come up with any logical explanation.

The bank has a great base plate with all patent information thereon in raised letters. The Canadian patent date, by the way, is March 27, 1883.

The bank operates like most of the bust type. A coin is placed in his extended right hand, depressing the lever in the back left shoulder causes the hand to lift to his mouth and the coin goes in as the tongue recedes. At the same time his eyes roll upward. Parts return to position as pictured when the lever is released.

Organ Bank — Type 1 (Cat and Dog)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1975

A mechanical bank with particularly good action accompanied by sound is our choice as No. 244 in the numerical classification. This bank, the Organ Bank – Type I, is a companion bank to the Organ Bank – Type II. The main difference between the two banks is that the Type II has a boy and girl in the respective positions of the cat and dog on Type I. Another interesting difference is that the cat and dog each revolve counter clockwise, while the girl on Type II revolves clockwise and the boy turns counter clockwise. In addition to these differences there are a certain number of varieties of each bank, some having three bells instead of two and others with the operating crank on the left side of the bank as well as the right. There are also minor variations on the inside construction and mechanism of each respective bank. Basically, of course, they all have similar action and operation.

The Organ Bank – Type I conforms to the patent drawings in that the drawings show a cat and dog. The patent was issued to Louis Kyser and Alfred C. Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., June 13, 1882, and made by their company, Kyser & Rex, in the same city. This patent of 1882 was an improvement of their patent granted May 31, 1881 which covered just the monkey without the other moving figures. The Type I bank as manufactured by Kyser & Rex is made exactly as shown on the patent drawings of 1882.

The bank pictured is in unusually fine, all original condition, with no repairs. It is an attractive bank with colors as follows: The monkey has a yellow hat with red stripes, his jacket is red with white collar and cuffs. His trousers, as well as jacket buttons, are yellow. The coin tray held in his extended right hand is gold. The monkey's feet and face are brown and he has white eyes with black pupils and a red mouth. The cat and dog are an overall white, the dog with black markings and the cat with yellow markings. Each has black eyes and red mouth. The monkey sits on a raised blue section. The overall color of the organ is a dark brown japanned-type finish. Highlights in gold are on the crank, the raised coin slot section, the name section, the organ pipes, the section with the open music sheets, and the latticed sides and back. The music sheets are white with definitions of notes in black. This completes the coloring of a very good looking bank.

To operate, the crank is turned so that the tray is in the raised position as shown in the photo. A coin is placed thereon. In turning the crank clockwise the monkey lowers his right arm causing the coin to slide from the tray into the raised slot section. As this occurs he tips his hat with his left hand and arm. Concurrently the cat and dog revolve counter clockwise. As all this action continues by turning the crank, bells inside the bank are caused to ring with a rather loud but pleasant sound. A very nice action bank to see and hear in operation.

Coins are removed by means of a key locking coin trap in the base. The patent date of June 13, 1882 is cast in the back plate of the bank.

Lion and Two Monkeys

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1975

A mechanical bank that has direct collector appeal from several angles is our choice as No. 245 in the numerical classification. The bank is the Lion And Two Monkeys, and naturally it has definite interest to those collectors who lean toward the animal-type mechanicals. Then, specifically, there are certain collectors with a very definite interest in monkeys and the representations thereof. As a matter of fact, quite a nice group of interesting mechanical banks have monkeys as their subject matter.

These include the rare Monkey (Coin In Stomach), the various Organ Banks, the Monkey & Coconut, Monkey with Tray, Monkey Bank, Monkey & Parrot, Little Jocko, Chimpanzee Bank, and the very rare Rival Bank. Next would be those collectors with a leaning toward lions. For some reason mechanicals offer little in the way of lions as their subject matter. The only three coming to mind at the moment; the one under discussion, the rare British Lion (Tin), and the great Lion Hunter Bank. Still banks are quite the opposite since a number of them employ the figure of a lion and form a nice group unto themselves. Transversely, the still banks offer little in the way of monkeys, about the main one being the Three Monkeys, See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil.

The Lion And Two Monkeys is an unusually attractive bank with particularly fine action which utilizes the coin in the action, a desirable feature since a coin is really necessary to operate the toy mechanical properly. It was designed and patented by Louis Kyser and Alfred C. Rex of

Philadelphia, Pa., July 17, 1883, and made by their company, Kyser & Rex, of the same city. The bank as produced closely follows the patent drawings, both as to configuration and operation. The patent text well covers the actual production bank.

The Lion And Two Monkeys shown is an exceptionally fine, all original example with excellent original paint. Colors are as follows: The lion is the color of a lion with his mane accented in dark brown, he has orange-brown glass eyes, red nostrils and mouth, and his teeth are white. The monkeys are brown with light tan faces. Eyes are white with black pupils, and each have a red mouth and white teeth. The base of the bank is an overall green mottled with yellow and red (this type mottling is indicative and characteristic of a number of Kyser & Rex banks). The tree is a very dark brown with green highlights. A peanut-shaped section on the tree is light tan. A red rimmed base plate completes the coloring.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed in the right hand of the front monkey. On depressing the operating lever, the hand and arm of the monkey lowers, dropping the coin toward the lion whose mouth opens to receive it. As this action takes place, the baby monkey moves upward and forward on the other monkey's back and looks down at the lion. Very clever action, and on releasing the lever all parts return automatically to position as shown in the photo.

In closing, it bears mention that the Lion And Two Monkeys comes in two slightly different versions, one having a somewhat taller tree than the other. To tell the difference, check the peanut-shaped section on the trunk. The double peanut shape is the taller tree, and the single peanut shape is the shorter. And, by the way, watch that rear monkey — he's vulnerable, and more often than not a replacement. Also watch for the single large monkey where the arms holding the small monkey have been ground off. The bank was never made with a single monkey.

I Always Did 'Spise A Mule (Jockey)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1975

A mechanical bank having the same basic operation as that of a patented mechanical toy is our choice as No. 246 in the numerical classification. This is the I Always Did 'Spise A Mule, a particularly fine action bank covered by the same patent as that of the toy I Always Did 'Spise A Mule, Bowen's Series #2. While protected by the same patent, there should be no confusion between these two toys, one is distinctly a mechanical bank, and the other a mechanical toy with no provision for the use of a coin.

One of the outstanding designers of mechanical banks, James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., patented the toy and bank April 22, 1879. Bowen is responsible for some very clever action banks. The great Girl Skipping Rope, both action packed Calamity and Darktown Battery, Monkey & Coconut, Bull Dog Bank, the original shooting bank Creedmoor, and others. He had a lot to do with the popularity of mechanical banks by his ingenious use of a coin in the operations of his various banks, and the Always Did 'Spise A Mule is no exception. As with all Bowen banks that we know of, it was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed in the open mouth of the figure astride the mule. The coin is held in place by means of a clamping lug which is connected to the visor of the cap. The operating lever just in front of the rear legs of the mule is then depressed. The mule kicks upward and forward, pivoting on the stationary front legs, throwing the figure forward from the mule's back. The visor of the cap hits the log on the base, releasing the coin from the mouth of the figure into the coin slot in the base. To replace the figure on the back of the mule, the hind legs of the mule are pressed down into place and the figure automatically returns to position astride the mule.

It bears mention that the spring operated visor of the cap also serves to absorb the shock and impact when the figure falls forward from the mule and hits the log.

The bank shown is in exceptionally fine, all original condition in all respects, including the paint. We must now point out that various schemes of coloring were originally used to decorate the bank. The sides of the base, for example, were done in brown during one period, then in red, and then in yellow. So original examples exist with different colorings, not only on the base sides, but also on the figure and the mule, the mule in a light tan and a dark brown. We'll describe the coloring on one of the earlier examples of the bank. The base sides are dark brown with striping top and bottom in red and yellow. The base top is green with white lettering of the name I Always Did 'Spise A Mule. The log is brown with yellow ends. The mule is dark brown with black hooves, tail, mane, and harness. A blue blanket is over his back and there are various decorations on the harness straps in red and yellow. The figure wears a red, white and blue cap. He has a red shirt, white kerchief, and blue trousers. His bare feet, hands, arms, and face are black. His eyes are white with black pupils and his lips are red. The underside of the bank is dark brown, as is the perforated base plate with a conventional round Stevens trap. The date of April 22, 1879 is inscribed in the perforated base.

The companion mechanical toy, they make a nice pair, is very much like the bank with several exceptions. The figure astride the mule, for example, has a more proportionate size head, he does not wear a cap, and, of course, there is no provision for a coin in his mouth. The base of the toy is not raised, but rather sits flat on four lugs. These lugs originally had rubber thereon so it would not scratch or mar furniture or whatever when played with. The painting of the toy in the writer's collection is exactly the same as that of the bank described. The same patent date is inscribed in the base. On top of the base between the mule's legs appears "BOWEN'S SER'S NO: 2." This is in raised letters in circular form.

The fact of a toy and a bank being made under the same patent is highly unusual and quite interesting, but still characteristic of Bowen. He had a way of utilizing a patent so it covered more than one item. A further example of this is his patent on the Two Frogs, which also covered the Reclining Chinaman. Two banks, completely unlike in appearance, but having similar operating mechanisms.

TOYS

An encyclopedia defines toys as: "Playthings for young children, sometimes developed and designed for instruction as well." It was the ancient tombs of Egypt however, that gave us some idea of how long toys have been a part of civilization. Jointed dolls, puppets, balls, crocodiles with movable jaws, etc., have been discovered and scientifically dated to early B.C. In Rome, as early as 378, there is evidence of miniature vases, bows and arrows, hoops, tops and other miscellaneous toys. A writer of the early Renaissance period (1587) mentions wooden hobby horses, toy drums, and clay marbles.

The first patented toy was invented by an Englishman, John Wells in 1672. This patent was to protect the design of Well's "Artificial Horse." Over a century later in 1788, the first marble making machine was patented by a man named Holman.

The kaleidoscope, still very popular today, made its first appearance in 1817, thanks to the inventor Sir David Brewster.

Yes, toys have been with us a long, long time and each would have an important story to tell: whether it be the mass produced production line toys of today, or the tedious hand crafted artifacts of yesteryear.

I Always Did 'Spise A Mule – Part II

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1975

As we reach No. 247 in the numerical classification, the versatile designer of mechanical banks, James H. Bowen, once again comes into the picture with another of his mechanicals, the I Always Did 'Spise A Mule. Does the name sound familiar — it should, who else but Bowen would use the same name for two banks that are somewhat similar, but quite different. For identification purposes, we use the word Jockey in parenthesis along with the name to identify the other 'Spise A Mule, since there is a figure astride the mule. The one with the jockey is the first to utilize the name and was protected by a patent issued April 22, 1879 covering a toy. Both a toy and a mechanical bank were made under the patent.

The I Always Did 'Spise A Mule pictured had a patent all its own as a toy money box, and it was issued to Bowen, April 27, 1897. It is a well detailed patent with five drawings accompanying the text. As with the early version of 1879, this later namesake was also made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. It is apparent that the first version was a good seller for a number of years, and Stevens obviously took kindly to the changed and later model of 1897 as some 18 years had elapsed since its initial introduction. The one of 1897 now under discussion must have also sold well over the years as it was still being manufactured by Stevens in the 1920's. All evidence indicates the bank enjoyed wide popularity in its day.

The drawing for the 1879 patent for the toy shows a dog in sitting position by the rear legs of the mule. When the mule kicked, throwing the rider forward, the rear legs kicked the dog over backward. Neither the toy nor the bank were made in this fashion — that is to say, the dog was omitted. The writer feels, however, that this was the beginning of the idea for the later 1897 'Spise A Mule with the figure of the boy being kicked over backwards. It makes sense that Bowen utilized this part of his original idea of a figure being kicked over as on his 1897 version now under discussion. And, by the way, the 1897 patent drawings conform to the bank as manufactured.

The bank shown is a fine all original condition example with paint in excellent condition. Colors are as follows: The base sides are red with striping in yellow and black at the bottom and a yellow stripe at the top edge. The top surface is light green with touches of red and yellow, and the raised letters of the name in white. The mule is tan with red and yellow blanket, and black mane, hooves, tail, and harness straps. Decorations in red and yellow are on the straps. The boy has red trousers and hat and a yellow shirt. His face, hands, and shoes are black. He has white eyes, black pupils, and a red mouth. He holds a black stick in his left hand. As with the other 'Spise A Mule (Jockey), colors will vary on this version as well. As example, in later years the mule was painted white and the base sides were also done in yellow. In the case of this bank the painting variations are helpful in establishing the rough time period of any given example. All those with a white mule were in the most recent time period of manufacture, in the 1920's.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed in the provided section underneath the seated boy. When the lever, just in front of mule's rear legs, is pressed he kicks up and out and turns counter clockwise facing the opposite direction. In so doing, the mechanism causes the boy to fall over backward as though kicked by the mule. The coin slides into the provided slot in the base. Very fast, excellent and quite realistic. The bank must be reset for operation. The mule is manually turned around and set into position as shown in the picture and the boy is reset as shown.

The I Always Did 'Spise A Mule is one of the fine action banks having a companion bank and

toy all bearing the same name. Stevens sold the bank under the name Kicking Mule, and in 1928 the price was \$16.75 a dozen.

Piano Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1975

It's taken a long time but we have finally come up with a Piano Bank that the writer has confidence in as being an authentic, original, mechanical bank — not the usual converted still bank. While at this point it should be further up in the listing, it is now No. 248 in the numerical classification.

The writer has suspected for years that the Piano was originally made both as a still bank and a mechanical bank. It has always been known as a very fine still bank when left in its original state, and it seems a shame that a number of them have been converted to mechanical banks. True, it has not been well done and is somewhat obvious, but why ruin a very good still bank by making it into a fake mechanical. Two reasons, to fool one's self or to obtain more money for the bank as an authentic mechanical. Not very good reasons to spoil a still bank of any kind, let alone the Piano.

Both the still and the mechanical were made by E. M. Roche Novelty Company, Newark, N.J. This information is cast in raised letters on the underside of the base of the mechanical pictured. Considerable time has been spent on research with respect to the company and the time period. So far, this has been fruitless. Also, no patent papers or old catalogs have been of any help as the writer has found neither one with any reference to the bank. We have not given up as yet and efforts will continue to try to establish definitive information. In any case, the bank has all evidence of being circa 1895 to 1915.

It is not necessary to get into any paint description of the Piano Bank since it is all nickel plated, as is the still. It is necessary to be able to differentiate between the converted still and the genuine mechanical. To begin with, all converted banks seen over the years by the writer have the winding setup on the back of the bank and the musical works under the coin slot, which is in the top. The hole for the winding key, as well as the holes to hold the musical mechanism, are drilled, not cast, into the bank. The setup on the bank shown is quite different, as is the top casting. There is a definite raised cast section for the winding key on top of the bank. The coin slot is to the left in the top and cast this way.

Inside there are various cast lugs on the underside of the top to hold the music mechanism. Lugs are also cast to hold an operating lever that extends from the music unit to the underside of the coin slot. This operating lever activates the mechanism of the musical unit. The lever is spring held and when activated it releases the music unit to play through one time only and then automatically snaps into place stopping the music at the end of the piece. No screws or anything else show on the outside of the bank which would hold the musical unit, as is the case of the converted still bank. It is possible that a converted Piano could have a winding key on top instead of the back, but it would not be in the same fashion as the original described.

The bank shown is in extra nice original condition with the nickel plated finish in fine shape. It was found by that lucky Wally Tudor and is now in his great collection. Score one for Wally, because actually this comes under the heading of a "new find," and that is becoming more and more difficult as time goes on.

To operate the bank it is necessary, of course, first to wind the mechanical unit. Then a coin is pushed into the slot on top of the piano. This causes the inside lever to make about a quarter-turn

activating the music element. It plays the piece through and is then ready for another coin.

The back of the piano contains a large, well-constructed coin trap-door having a combination lock and hinges made of brass. The two pedals on the bottom front are also brass. The inside lever is nickel plated brass, as is the winding key. The rest of the bank, other than the musical unit, is cast-iron with nickel finish.

The castings of the various parts of the piano are quite ornate showing a harp, violin, mandolin, horn, and so on. These appear on the top, both sides, and upper and lower part of the front. It is a well-detailed bank and the various musical instruments along with the other decorative effects are cast in rather heavy relief so that they are well defined.

The piece played is Dixie and it plays eight times for eight coins when completely wound.

Thrifty Animal Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1975

The Thrifty Animal Bank, our choice as No. 249 in the commercial classification is another of those border-line mechanicals. It very definitely is not a registering bank while it does share the automatic opening feature that some registering banks do have. It is necessary to use the number of dimes to fill all the acorns, and the tenth dime causes the releasing mechanism to operate for removal of coins. This is similar action to the Safety Locomotive for example, and since the Thrifty Animal has been considered as a mechanical for years, it seems comfortable remaining as such.

The bank was made by the Buddy "L" Company of East Moline, Ill. It is pictured in color in one of their catalogs of the 1920's. Also pictured is the Buddy "L" Savings And Recording Bank. This bank recorded the amount of deposit in a small passbook and as such it is considered a registering bank, not a mechanical.

The Thrifty Animal is a unique bank as actually it is a still bank and a mechanical combined into one bank. That is to say, the coins saved are simply deposited into the back slot on top and are accumulated inside the bank. A round hole is provided for saving bills. Dimes only are used on the front slot to fill the acorns and open the bank. So in effect we have two separate savings sections or compartments. The mechanical aspect confined to the use of dimes as with the Safety Locomotive, but, unlike the Locomotive, a separate savings compartment for various coins. Rather interesting for a heavy tin or sheet iron type of bank.

The bank shown is in mint condition and was found in the original cardboard box. Colors on the bank are as follows: The bottom automatic opening base is red. The top, acorns, and border around the directions are in an orange-red. The background of the front, back and sides are an off-white. On the front the tree trunk and limbs are black with green foliage and the red acorns are outlined in black. The name Thrifty Animal Bank is off-white. The back of the bank shows two light red squirrels under a tree similar to the front, however, there are two large red acorns with no provision for holding coins. In other words, these two acorns do not have holes in them and are just part of the picture or decoration. The left side of the bank has a squirrel on top of some acorns (same colors) saying "Say," then black printing as follows: "Close up the hole in the acorn, you do it only nine times. Then when you put in the tenth one, it makes up a dollar in dimes." The right side has the directions printed in black: "1. Insert coins and bills in openings in top of bank. 2. To open bank insert nine dimes in dime slot. Tenth dime unlocks bank and bottom comes off. Tip lock-bar to remove dimes." On top along the large back slot appears: "All other coins." To the front of the top

is the Buddy "L" trademark. Along the front top slot is the statement: "Dimes only." The following is stamped on the underside of the base: "Buddy 'L' Company, Quality Toys, East Moline, Ill." Then "Made in U.S. of America."

There is no question as to the Buddy "L" Company statement "quality toys." They made a fine line of heavy sheet iron toys in extra large size, including cars, trucks, steamshovels, trains, fire trucks, and so on. Then in large size a Model T Ford roadster and truck, along with various others. All these are quite collectible today and becoming increasingly so. Due to their sturdy construction many of their toys have survived in unusually fine condition. This applies as well to their Thrifty Animal Bank, an exceptionally sturdy savings device, rather attractive, and cleverly designed. It does have sort of a so-called modern look about it for an old bank collection, but oddly enough the two squirrels on the back have the art-deco look and, of course, that is a big thing now.

Snap It Bank and Trick Savings Bank (Type I and Type II) by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1975

Not too often, but now and then, we run into a mechanical bank about which there just isn't too much to be said. It is usually a very simple type mechanical with very little action. Well, at this point we are faced with not one, but three mechanicals that come into this category. Numerically classified, they are Snap It Bank, No. 250 — Trick Savings Bank, Type I, No. 251 — Trick Savings Bank, Type II, No. 252.

The Snap It Bank, Figure 1, is cast iron with an overall japanned type finish. It's sort of a nice little building type bank with a pivot drawer in the top front. The knob of the drawer is pulled and when open it is held in position by a small locking lever under the drawer. Place a coin on the drawer, push the locking lever, and the drawer snaps shut depositing the coin inside the bank. It is pictured in several trade catalogs of the 1885 to 1890 period, along with a number of H. L. Judd banks, and we are reasonably sure it too was made by Judd.

The Trick Savings Banks are wood with tin front facing on the drawers. They are pictured Type I (end drawer), Figure 2, and Type II (front drawer), Figure 3. The operation of each is the same, pull the wooden drawer open and a round recessed section is exposed. Place the coin in the round section and close drawer. On re-opening the drawer, the coin has disappeared. The drawer has a trick bottom pivoted at the front that allows the coin to slide into the bank. To remove coins, turn the bank upside down which allows a drop pin in the back of the drawer to release the drawer from the bank. Coins are shaken out from the drawer space and then the drawer replaced with drop pin in position.

Paper labels were originally on the underside of all Trick Savings Banks as they told the story. The Type I shown, Figure 2, has the original label intact and we quote as follows:

TRICK SAVINGS BANK
This bank should be opened
by skill and not by force
TRY IT
Patented May 24, 1892 by C. Tollner

So that's it for three rather simple action, but still rather interesting mechanical banks. Oh yes, we should mention that the finish on the Trick Savings Banks is a clear or light color type varnish.

The wood is very smooth and would seem to be basswood. Charles Tollner, by the way, was from Pulaski, N.Y.

The Wireless Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1975

A mechanical with unusually interesting action is our choice as No. 253 in the numerical classification. This is the Wireless Bank having a somewhat unique operation insofar as mechanical banks are concerned. It is a well made attractive bank type of building constructed of cast iron, tin, wood, copper, and incorporates the use of a coil magnet and a D size battery.

The inventor of this rather complicated bank was Christian Berger of New York City, and he assigned his patent to Frederick I. Sawyer of Evanston, Ill. The patent is dated January 5, 1926 and consists of four drawings of the bank with three pages of text. The drawings are identical to the bank as manufactured, even showing the name 'Wireless Bank'. The text is unusually detailed and explicit, covering the bank from all angles. Initially, Mr. Berger states in the patent that 'A purpose of the invention is to afford an operable depositing device by which the coin may be thrown, flipped, released or otherwise deposited in the receptacle in a novel and effective manner'.

A particular purpose is to bring about the depositing action by control from a distance, for example by wave control, sound waves being herein shown as a suitable embodiment of the invention. Mr. Berger further covered an important point with respect to the circuit: 'Before further describing the circuit I will state that I prefer to include in the circuit the magnet core and the depositor flap so that the circuit will be broken and current saved except when the depositor has been set in contact with the magnet, and this arrangement further renders the apparatus more sensitive and reliable.' This, of course, covered the possibility of a battery being left in the bank for a length of time with no drain of current from the battery taking place. Irrespective of this, it is not a good idea to leave a battery in the bank for any long period of time.

The bank shown is in excellent all original condition and the colors of the building are as follows: The cast iron base, front columns, and roof section are white and the name thereon is gold outlined in black. The front, right side (as pictured), and back are lithographed tin simulating red brick-work. The front entrance and two windows are gray with the defined stonework and window panes in a darker gray. The left end of the building is wood, stained red. The inserted tin top section of the roof is green, and this completes the coloring of a very attractive bank.

Before operating the bank it is necessary, of course, to insert a battery in the provided section in the underside. The flap on the top of the roof is then pulled over into position on the magnet where it stays in place. A coin is placed on the flap. Stepping back several feet from the bank, a loud clap of the hands or a strong call of the word 'cash' causes the mechanism to operate and the flap swings over depositing the coin in the bank. A very nice action mechanical and interesting to show to those not familiar with its mechanism and basis of operation.

Now to a puzzling or semi-mystery type of thing. The front underside edge of the cast iron base has the following inscribed thereon: 'Pat. March 11, 1913 — Nov. 10, 1914 — Dec. 19, 1916 — Sept. 24, 1918.' So far the writer has not found any of these patents. They must exist and time and further searching may bring them to light. The patent date of January 5, 1926 does not appear on the writer's example of this bank, nor on a number of others he has examined. It is highly likely the four patent dates of 1913, 1914, 1916, and 1918 do not necessarily have to do with a mechanical bank, but rather some phase of an operating principle. Assuming this to be the case, the bank could

have been manufactured some years prior to 1926 since this date is not on the bank, covered in part then by the four patent dates shown. Then a decision made to apply for a patent covering the mechanical bank as such with the application filed June 9, 1922 and finally issued June 5, 1926.

The Humpty Dumpty Bank and G. L. Fox

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1975

It looks as though, with the help of the observant Sy Schreckinger, the mystery of the clown bust bank Humpty Dumpty being so named has been solved. For some years the writer has wondered why a clown bust would be called by a name that has reference to an egg shaped figure having no resemblance to a clown. Fortunate timing on the part of Sy in looking around an antique shop shed light on this whole situation with his finding the engraving of G. L. Fox as Humpty Dumpty.

It seems that Fox was one of the more gifted performers of the 19th century and in his time he was known as the greatest pantomime clown since Grimaldi. On March 10, 1868, he opened in a show in New York City which ran for 483 performances. The show was called Humpty Dumpty and Fox produced the show as well as being its star performer. It seems he was the only performer with enough box office power to keep the art of pantomime alive against the more appealing burlesque. The show Humpty Dumpty brought Fox the supreme success of his career, outdrawing and outplaying anything ever presented before its time, shattering all previous long run records.

The show, insofar as the title goes, had little relationship to Mother Goose or Humpty Dumpty and no real plot in that direction. Apparently certain characters involved marked time until the Fairy Queen transformed Goodie Two Shoes into Columbine, Tommy Tucker into Harlequin, and Humpty Dumpty became Clown. This then led into a variety and spectacle show with roller skaters, circus acts, and singers. The show Humpty Dumpty ran in New York until about 1873 with Fox starring in the role the entire time. He was suddenly institutionalized and died within a few months. It seems that pantomime in its finer form died with Fox and fell into obscurity for years to come.

That's the story of Fox in rather brief form. One can note the photo copy of the engraving of Fox in makeup and the marked similarity between it and the Humpty Dumpty Bank. There would seem to be no question but that the Humpty Dumpty Bank is an effigy or representation of Fox, and this of course, not only enhances the bank but also puts it into an unusual and very limited group of mechanicals. These banks are those that represent an actual person. Among these that come to mind at the moment are Teddy And The Bear, Queen Victoria Bust, Bismark Bank, and World's Fair (Columbus). Of course the banks mentioned, unlike Humpty Dumpty, are obvious representations of the respective individuals and readily recognizable.

Once again another fascinating facet of collecting mechanical banks. Who would have thought of the Humpty Dumpty Bank having connection with a New York show and pantomime performer by the name of Fox. The article on the Humpty Dumpty Bank appeared in the January, 1975, HOBBIES.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1975

It's been a long time since we have had mechanical bank ramblings and a number of people have inquired "how come?" This, including a recent inquiry on ramblings from our good friends in Paris, Nicole and Emmanuel Rodrique, so anyway here it is and here we go.

A very important find of one of the quite rare banks, as yet not seen by the writer, is the Jonah And Whale (Jonah Emerges From Whale's Mouth). We understand the underside coin container box, which also supports the bank, is missing. We also understand there is some question as to the paint and its originality. Please note the writer has not seen this bank as yet and, therefore, cannot pass judgment, other than the fact it is another example of this rare bank and not a known Jonah Emerges sold or traded from one of the large collections.

Another Magie Bank has turned up in fine all original mint condition. This is a tough tin bank to obtain with exceptionally good action completely similar to that of the Magician. Like some of the other tin banks, it is rather fragile and can get out of order rather easily unless handled properly and carefully. This is part of the reason it's a difficult mechanical to come by.

There is a new find in a tin Tiger Bank. It is quite similar in makeup and operation to the British Lion (Tin) and undoubtedly both were manufactured by the same German concern. The Tiger would seem to be in the same period as the Lion, and more about it at another time.

Some talk concerns the possibility of the recent find of an original Uncle Sam Bust Bank. Also an original catalog showing the bank. Up to now all examples of the Uncle Sam Bust seen by the writer over the years have been fakes or recasts from a possible original bank. We say "possible original" since such may exist, however, the writer has never seen this or any other original example to date. If and when he does, readers will be advised.

Of particular recent interest is the discovery of a Lehmann mechanical bank. Where this bank has been all these years and why one has not turned up before now is a real mystery, but that's the way it goes with the mechanicals and it's another intriguing aspect in collecting them. Most everybody familiar with cast iron toys and mechanical banks is aware of the fact that the German made Lehmann tin toys have increased in value considerably over the last few years. It wasn't too long ago that they were considered just a routine foreign made tin toy. Not so now, and possibly this increased interest and value had something to do with the discovery of the Bobby In Tower Bank. It's an interesting, rather small bank with the figure of an English policeman holding a British flag in his hands. He is inside the top open section of the tower. On depositing a coin in the provided slot in the top, the flag is caused to go up and then drop back down of its own accord. Various pictures of well known structures in London are depicted on the sides of the tower. It is a well made sturdy little bank and the German patent covering it is dated July 12, 1925 and issued to Ernst Paul Lehmann. The only part of the bank that is not too sturdy is the quite small British flag held by the policeman. It is a cloth-like material held in place by a clamped over part representing the flag holder. Believe it or not, one of these banks turned up, then another, then another, and to date there are four, possibly five, known to exist. We will probably do more on the bank at a later date, however, at this time we will classify the bank as No. 254 in the numerical classification.

For still bank collectors and the many mechanical collectors who also collect stills, we have some rather interesting news concerning the very fine Key Bank. We have known of three varieties for some time and now it turns up there are two varieties of the St. Louis Exposition World's Fair Key Bank. This one is not riveted together and the front or end section that revolves comes completely out, then a U-shaped piece is removed, and the two halves of the key come apart. Also two different examples of the Eiffel Tower Bank have turned up. One is cast iron with the wording in French and similar to the English cast iron version, only somewhat taller. The other is a finely detailed example made in a lead-like metal and tin. It is a handsome bank with a fine lock and combination trap in the base. A reclining lion is embossed on this coin trap and at some point this may be helpful in ascertaining who made the bank — it looks of French manufacture. It is nicely decorated in two shades of gold.

Toys and Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1975

There's been a lot of activity lately in banks and toys, and that's for sure. An exceptionally good toys and banks type of affair was held in the International Hotel Ballroom at Kennedy International Airport in September. It was well attended with lots of activity and a broad general line of toys including banks, both still and mechanical. It was really something to see so many old toys on display for sale by so many table exhibitors and upon first entering the place it was sort of overwhelming, but after not too long this feeling sort of dissipated itself and one could get down to the business at hand.

Sure goes to show that anything can happen — who would ever imagine John Haley from England with, among other things, Mickey Mouse items for sale — Mickey Mouse has really arrived since John doesn't fool around and he had some nice toys as well as banks for sale.

Our good friends Audrey and Marty Wank had a fine display including some of the up and coming battery operated type toys. Keep your eyes on this kind of toy, they are a real coming collector's item. The Wanks get into the 30's, 40's, and 50's toys and an occasional bank. A lot of their things are obtainable in the original boxes. While original boxes in themselves seem important to certain collectors, it's what is in the box that counts where the writer is concerned. Usually a toy in the original box is in mint condition and that's where the importance lies.

Don Beck from Fort Wayne had a particularly nice group of toys and he has a way of coming up with a real 'goodie' now and then, and, of course, he really does get into some fine collector's item along with banks and toys. He too has the 'bug' for some of the 20's on type tin toys, including Strauss, Lehmann, Marx, and the like.

Lloyd Ralston was in attendance and in all his glory and right at home. He's particularly active in toys and knows when to spot a good one — he works at it and gets results. Understand Lee Perelman and Don Markey were also there, but the writer missed them. Don't forget Lee has that fine toy museum in Philadelphia and it will be a big 'thing' in 1976 for the Bicentennial.

Joe Olympio had a representative table of toys, so he is right in there and keeping abreast of this specialized collecting field. Then, too, Van Dexter of Second Childhood, New York City, had his eyes open and pointed out a couple of items to the writer that he thought might be of interest. The Werbell's were there with a sizeable display of still banks. They, as well as other exhibitors, had mechanical banks for sale.

All in all it was a most interesting affair, well worth attending, and it is to be held again in May of 1976. The writer found several rather nice pieces and exposure to so many old toys was certainly encouraging. There were fine trains, electric, windup and pull type. Some fine cast iron toys, including carriages, bell toys Hubley circus band wagon (small size), Hubley calliope, and even a mint condition rear end of the Farmer Van. A wide selection of tin windups of the 20's through the 40's. Mickey Mouse all over the place. Then, of course, battery operated toys of the late 40's into the 60's. These, by the way, are generally figures that go through different movements and motions. For example, one for sale by the Wank's was the figure of a clown working a puppet figure of Pinocchio, a really great battery operated toy, and it found a good home.

To sum up this show, there was pretty much for everyone with interest in the field of collecting toys.

The Mechanical Bank Collector's Club held a convention in Connecticut in September. The writer was unable to attend, however, he kept current on some of the activities. A Motor Bank with

extra nice paint showed up minus the top and coin trap, a particularly fine original condition Afghanistan Bank changed hands, and, of course, there were some private deals consummated, including a different type of tin clown face bank and tin negro face. While they each look different, they are the same stamping and not certain as to age. An unusual vending pinball tin bank was most interesting and comes under the category of a new find in a pre 1935 bank.

Most likely the two rarest banks were brought to the convention by Nicole and Emmanuel Rodrique of Paris, France. They had available for trade only the Bonzo Bank and rare Harold Lloyd, each in extra fine original condition. These are German made tin banks of considerable interest and quite attractive. Full details about them later on. For now, Bonzo, an English cartoon character, is comparable to Mickey Mouse in the United States, the time period of late 1920's, early 1930's. Harold Lloyd is Harold Lloyd in his younger days, and also 1920, early 1930's. Two very desirable mechanicals.

And to wind all this up at this point, while not at the convention or the toy show, a Merry Go Round Bank turned up. With the exception of the small figure of the man, it is in extra fine all original condition with very nice paint. This is one of the top desirable rarities in a mechanical bank and they turn up few and far between.

Eagle and Eaglets Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1976

Our symbols of patriotism with their respective significance and meaning have always been a thing with the writer. Our Flag is a wonderful flag with beauty, distinction and dignity. The Statue of Liberty is an ever inspiring, really great statue. Well known or famous bells? What could ever take the place of the Liberty Bell and its very deep meaningful background. Uncle Sam, what a figure which his outfit in representation of our Flag and the inspiration he inspires. And then our Eagle, with its awesome courage and spirit, proud above all else. These symbols, patriotic representations, all come into sharp focus as we reach our Bicentennial Year of 1976. What more appropriate then for the January 1976 issue of HOBBIES than the Eagle And Eaglets Bank, our choice as No. 255 in the numerical classification.

The Eagle And Eaglets was made by the top manufacturer of mechanical banks, the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn. It was patented by Charles M. Henn of Chicago, Ill., January 23, 1883. There's not much to be said about the patent papers themselves. Stevens retained the basic principle of operation of the bank as outlined by the patent. Stevens did, however, make a number of changes in the configuration of the bank as compared to the patent drawings. The changes were definitely an improvement over the original patent drawings.

The Eagle And Eaglets enjoyed tremendous popularity and was one of the most popular of all mechanical banks. It was made in large quantities over a long period of time. As a toy bank it had a very pleasing appearance and was appropriate as a gift for either a boy or girl.

In spite of the large production of the Eagle And Eaglets, it is not a common bank to find today in fine to mint condition. It is considered to be one of the fairly common mechanicals, but this is not so if you want one in fine original paint with original whistling or chirping bellows and no repairs such as the one pictured. More often than not, one or both flapping wings of the large eagle do not operate properly or are broken inside. The baby eagles must rise from the nest and open their beaks, usually one or the other does not do so properly and requires repair. Also, it is a very light colored bank and the large eagle just didn't stand too much handling being an off-white in color.

To operate the bank, the beak of the large eagle is opened manually and a coin placed therein. A lever under the tail of the eagle is pressed down. The eagle tilts forward lowering its wings and in so doing opens its beak, dropping the coin into the nest where the coin goes through a slot into the base of the bank. The baby eaglets lift up and open their beaks as though receiving food — the coin in this case representing the food. As this action takes place, the bellows inside emit a squeaking sound in simulation of chirping baby eagles. On releasing the lever all parts return to their respective positions as shown in the picture.

The colors of this very attractive bank are as follows: The large eagle is an all over off-white with black lines and markings on the upper side of the wings and back. He has glass eyes and his beak is a black-brown. His claws are brown and black. The baby eaglets are gray with black beaks. The nest is in shades of dark and light brown and tan. The base is an overall odd tan-gray color with highlights of green, yellow and black. The lever is brown and the animal peaking out under the eagle is orange with red mouth and black eyes. The base plate is edged in black and the underside is painted in the same odd tan-gray color as the base. The patent date of January 23, 1883 is cast in raised letters on the underside of the base. A conventional round Stevens trap is also in the base plate for removal of coins.

The writer has a fine original advertising card in color showing the "American Eagle" Bank. (Stevens' name for the Eagle And Eaglets.) In this picture the animal under the eagle is plainly a fox and the lever is definitely a snake. On the actual bank the animal looks more like a pig and the lever a twig.

The inaccuracy of people in describing a mechanical bank just came to the writer's mind when thinking about the Eagle And Eaglets. Years ago a woman wrote the writer that she had an unusual bank — 'a chicken fighting a snake'. After a long drive and all pepped up with the possibility of a new find in a mechanical, what did she have but the Eagle And Eaglets! Believe it or not, she thought the eagle was a chicken and the branch-like lever a snake. The writer can go along with the 'lever like a snake' bit, but the eagle a chicken — never in his wildest imagination!

Vending Banks, Part 1

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February 1976

The period of 1910 into the 1930's represents a time during which a great number and variety of tin vending type mechanical banks were made. Some were made in the States, a far greater number Abroad, and most of these in Germany. The action and end result in all these vending type banks is practically the same — a coin is dropped or inserted in a coin slot, the coin engages a release mechanism so that a drawer or whatever may be pulled open and a wrapped piece of chocolate slides out. There's nothing very earth-shaking about the action involved, however, all banks of this type are very definitely in the mechanical category and it is necessary to use a coin to receive the piece of candy.

Key locking coin traps are provided in most of the vending banks. This may mean the entire back or side may swing open or slide up, not only to remove coins but also to replenish the stock of small chocolate bars. The bars are usually exposed to view from the front of these banks by means of a small glass window, tempting the viewer to place his coin and receive his candy.

A line of demarcation exists between toy vending machines per se and vending toy savings bank. A vending toy savings bank is just that — primarily a toy savings device in which to save money and in so doing a reward for each coin saved. The purpose, of course, to encourage a

savings habit in a child. The savings encouragement of most mechanical banks is the visual action, and this is primary. In the case of vending banks, the action is secondary and the piece of candy primary.

Not to confuse the issue, but rather to keep clarification, it should be mentioned that not all the vending banks use small chocolate bars. There are exceptions, and one that comes to mind at the moment is a toy tin bank that dispenses a cigarette on insertion of the coin. This bank actually shows in colored lithography boys smoking cigarettes! Very definitely, in the writer's opinion, this bank was made in the 1920's during the carefree, careless attitude typical of this era.

There is no doubt that the prime purpose behind the vending banks was to promote the chocolate candies of various well known companies. One of the largest, Stollwerck, utilized banks for various Countries so that some Stollwerck are in French and used a French coin; others in German and the respective coin; English for English coins; English for American coins, and so on. All with the purpose, of course, of promoting Stollwerck chocolate in each respective Country.

One of the more attractive of the vending type banks is the Droste's Spaar-Automaat, Figure 1, and No. 256 in the numerical classification. It is lithographed in various decorative colors of red, gold, light and dark blue, brown, white and pink. A mother, father, son and daughter are lithographed on the left side and back. They are shown putting coins in the bank. The right side has the Droste figure with a chocolate bar. The picture speaks for itself, the action we have covered, and there's not much more to be said except that the origin of the bank is Holland.

In Figure 2 we have the Pascall Savings Bank, No. 257 in the numerical classification, another nice attractive vending bank. The entire bank is purple with wording and other decorations in gold. Once again the picture is self explanatory, action the same, and enough said.

Figure 3 shows the Chocolat Menier Vending Bank, a rather decorative item, interesting shape, and interesting decorations. Colors are green, blue, light tan, white and gold. In this bank the entire dome is the coin trap — held in place by a small lock in the rear. The Chocolat Menier is No. 258 in the numerical classification.

(To be continued next month as Part 2)

Vending Banks, Part 2

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1976

Continuing on with our vending banks (Part 1, February, 1976, HOBBIES), we have pretty well covered the background of the toy vending type tin savings devices with their meaning, operation, purpose, and so on. We will now continue with specific banks, respective photo of each, colors, and description where necessary.

The Stollwerck Bros. Bank, Figure 1, is No. 259 in the numerical classification. It's a very nice little bank and enjoyed wide popularity in its time in a number of different Countries. The example pictured is probably the one familiar to most collectors. It has the hand shadows lithographed on the front, sides and top. Various decorations were used on the bank for other countries. As example, one made for the French market has postage stamps lithographed in colors. The respective language for each country was used on the bank, such as French, German, English, and so on. The variations of this bank would seem to be almost endless. Ed Mosler probably has at least 30 varieties of the Stollwerck in his collection! So it is pretty safe to say that this bank exists in more variations than any other known mechanical. The one pictured has colors in red, pink, greenish-blue, tan, white, and gold. It has a glass back, others have a solid tin back. In either case, it is key locked into

position and slides up for removal of coins and replacement of chocolates. Operation — deposit a coin in the chute, pull the front wire handle and a chocolate comes out. It bears mention that in some of the vending banks the coin itself pushes the chocolate bar forward as the handle or drawer is pulled out, the coin then drops to the base container through a slot located towards the front.

No. 260 in the numerical classification is pictured in Figure 2, Stollwerck's Victoria Savings Bank. This is the German version in German and shows and tells the story of Hansel & Gretel on the sides and back. It really is a great job of lithography in brilliant colors and most attractive. The size of the Victoria is an imposing 10¾ inches high. On the underside of the base stamped in the tin appears 'Stollwerck Cologne Germany.'

The bank shown is in mint condition in all respects. There are so many colors and shadings it would be difficult to describe accurately the lithography. In any case, basic colors are dark and light blue, red, brown, tan, white gold, gray, green, pink, and maroon. As one can note in the photo, there are two chutes and two sections for candies, affording a choice of bars to the depositor. The Victoria is a very attractive vending bank and a particularly fine item to have in a collection of mechanical banks.

As No. 261 in the numerical classification, we have selected the Sweet Thrift Bank, an American made vending bank, shown in Figure 3. The writer has an old catalog or two showing the bank and these bear out its 1920's to early 30's time period. This time period is further indicated by the figures of children and their clothing which appear on the sides and back. Girls are blowing bubbles on each of the sides, and two boys with a scooter appear on the back. Each boy wears a middy with extra wide collar and scarf tie indicative of the times. The underbase of the bank has 'Pat Appld For' stamped thereon. The bank is an overall bright yellow. Other colors of children's clothing, decorations, and wording are red, blue, white, green, pink, light yellow, brown, rose, black and gold. As shown in the picture, coins are deposited in the front of this bank and the key locked left side opens for removal of coins and replenishing of candy bars.

Fortunately, the writer has several original wrapped chocolate bars that came with his fine mint condition example of this bank. While the bank itself tells us nothing as to manufacturer, and so on, the bars do. On top of each bar printed in red appears 'Nestle's Milk Chocolate. Packaged specially for Thrift Banks.' On the front and back of each bar is the word 'THRIFT.' On the bottom of each bar is the following: 'Packaged Specially for SWEET THRIFT BANKS, Beverly Novelty Corporation, 303 Fifth Avenue, New York City.' To operate, deposit penny, nickel or dime, open drawer, and there's your chocolate candy bar.

Some Thoughts on Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1976

The writer has always had sort of a thing about whales — an interest in them and knowing something about them. This interest has not been a great in depth type of thing or scientific in any way, just a kind of general knowledge type of information.

In any case, liking whales as he does, naturally the Jonah & The Whale Bank has always had special appeal to the writer. And prior to having one, the Jonah & Whale (Jonah Emerges) really was a hopeful goal and a great center of interest to the writer. It has particular attraction with the figure of Jonah coming out of the whale and, of course, the rarity of the bank itself. So when he finally obtained one some years ago, it was a real occasion.

Well to get to the point, the writer just accepted the two Jonah & Whale Banks for what they are, which is a lot, but for some reason he never took time to study the respective whales on each

bank. While this is not earth shaking as such, nevertheless it would seem of particular importance that each bank represents a different specific type or species of whale. The one on the conventional Jonah & The Whale (where Jonah is in the boat) is a Sperm whale, the other much rare Jonah (where he comes out of the whale's mouth) is a Humpback whale.

One can say what difference does it make, a whale is a whale. Well it is sort of intriguing that two different whale mechanical banks were made and that a different species of whale was used on each, and in reality in each case they are today in fact two of the most endangered type of whales. Let's certainly hope that something more definitive is done by certain other nations to preserve these wonderful creatures of the sea.

In speaking of rare banks we usually think in terms of just that — a certain bank that is rare in itself and perhaps only one to five or so are known to exist. There is, however, another phase of rarity in banks that we are inclined to overlook, or at least not give proper thought to. This has to do with condition, particularly so with respect to original paint. An excellent example of what we are trying to point out is the Humpty Dumpty Bank. This is a real rare bank to find in extra fine to near mint paint condition. The white face on Humpty Dumpty just didn't lend itself to any amount of even fairly rough treatment.

While most collectors may have a Humpty Dumpty in their respective collections, how many have one in fine to better original paint? Very few. Over a considerable number of years the writer has seen two, possibly three, Humpty Dumpty Banks that would come into the category of extra fine to near mint paint condition.

So actually while in a general way Humpty Dumpty is a fairly common bank, there are examples which are quite rare. This same circumstance applies to several other of the mechanicals, and another that comes to mind at the moment, exactly comparable to Humpty Dumpty but less common, is the Bill E. Grin Bank. Try to find one of these in great original paint condition and you're faced with a real challenge. Very few exist in this state in the many collections the writer knows of or is familiar with.

A not particularly rare bank, but certainly not common, is the Hindu. Try to find a white faced Hindu in fine to extra fine paint condition. It is most certainly a rare bank in this state.

The Magician Bank is another good example in making our point. A real challenge is to obtain one of these banks with fine to extra fine paint and original colored flocking on the stairs. Very definitely a Magician in this condition is a rare bank, and no doubt about it. The writer knows of only three, perhaps four, examples of the Magician that would measure up to this standard. And after all the years of his collecting, the writer's still looking for one in this state.

Let us take one of the most common of all the mechanicals, Tammany Bank. Thousands and thousands of these were made over a long period of years. How often does one see an extra fine near mint Tammany? Very seldom — and while not greatly rare in this condition, it is difficult to obtain one.

Going to the other side of the coin for the moment, it is really amazing how certain of the mechanicals turn up in excellent paint condition. Banks like Chief Big Moon, Hen & Chick, Creedmoor, I Always Did 'Spise A Mule (both kinds), Darktown Battery, and others are frequently found with exceptionally nice original paint. A lot would seem to have to do with the character of the bank, the type paint used as well as the colors, and then, of course, the subsequent use or abuse.

Circumstances could be a governing factor. Take the case of the Kiltie Bank. A number of these were found years ago in an old store stock in Scotland. Thus, a number of Kiltie Banks known are in mint condition. Now and then one showing signs of wear turns up, but at least one half or more of those known to exist are brand new, old and original, but never subject to any use.

In closing for now, an interesting observation on tin mechanical banks is in order. For some reason tin banks are at extremes where paint condition is concerned. They are really nice or they are rather poor. There seems to be no middle of the road where tin mechanicals are concerned. It's interesting because in the case of tin toys of all types, particularly the early ones, they are often in the middle of the road condition. True, various of the tin toys made in the 1920's and 30's, which are quite collectible today, are found in mint condition, often in the original boxes. Transversely, it is surprising how many of the tin toys of this period condition-wise are middle of the road. Numbers of the tin mechanical banks were made after 1900 and it's enlightening to realize that many survived in very nice condition. However, to repeat, they usually go from that to rather poor condition, not somewhere in between.

Cat and Mouse Bank (Type I)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1976

A little more catching up on an important Type bank is appropriate at this point. As explained before, some Type banks have been left in limbo due to the timing of the articles on certain mechanicals plus other factors, including mechanicals that turn up now and then.

Going back to the Cat And Mouse Bank (HOBBIES, November 1964), we now know this bank as Type II. We have never given details on the Type I pictured which is a quite important very scarce bank with circumstances of its existence similar to those of the Called Out Bank, another scarce rare item. At this time, having no choice in the matter, the Cat And Mouse, Type I is No. 262 in the numerical classification.

Like the Called Out Bank, the Type I Cat and Mouse is in an undefined area as to how many may have ever reached any stage of general distribution. Also like the Called Out Bank, we know it was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company and that it was a bank entirely produced by them. There is no doubt that James Bowen who patented the Cat And Mouse was an influencing factor in the circumstances surrounding the Type I. It is a logical deduction that the Type I was Bowen's initial version of the bank and that the somewhat gross subject matter of a rather fierce looking cat holding a mouse in its mouth in a well defined fashion was the beginning of the end of the bank. No doubt certain Stevens' personnel, as well as Bowen, decided after production that the bank simply wouldn't have great potential or popularity with the unpleasant subject matter involved. So at whatever point, the Type II replaced the Type I.

It is of interest to note that neither of the two types are just like Bowen's patent of April 21, 1891. The patent drawings are, however, more similar to the Type II. This with particular reference to the figure of the cat and mouse. The large clock-like configuration of the overall bank is the same in both Type I and II, and in either case like the patent drawings.

Of interest too is the fact that the more widely known Type II has the figure of a cat and mouse made in cast iron, as is the rest of the bank. Not so with Type I — the figure of the cat holding the mouse in its mouth is brass. As we know from certain other mechanicals, brass was used as a part or parts where unusual strain, stress, or other factors were involved where cast iron (more brittle) would tend to break. There is no question but that the cat and mouse revolve into position with considerable force and obviously in the earlier Type I it was felt necessary to make it in this fashion. Subsequent testing and so on apparently bore out the lack of necessity of using brass for the figure and cast iron was more expedient for Stevens to use anyway.

Both Type I and Type II operate alike. A coin is placed on the platform in front of the single

mouse. (This appears when the figure is pushed revolved back into position from that shown in the picture.) The lever in front, under the large cat face, is pressed down. On so doing the cat holding the mouse revolves and snaps rapidly into position as shown. The coin falls from the platform into a tapered funnel shape section and on into the coin receptacle base. Coins are removed by means of a conventional round Stevens trap in the bottom base plate.

Colors of the Type I, with one important exception, are the same as those used on the better known conventional Type II. The exception is the figure of the cat holding mouse. The cat on the bank pictured is an all over black and he has yellow eyes. The kitten holding on to the mouse's tail is a yellow-tan color and it has white eyes. The mouse is gray with black eyes. The drapery around the legs and back of the black cat is red.

There is no question as to the rather unpleasantness of the representation of the subject matter on the Type I bank. Being objective about it, however, it is a very interesting mechanical and actually a quite rare desirable bank. To the best of the writer's knowledge only three, possibly four, are known to exist.

New Creedmoor Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1976

Patents pertaining to mechanical banks are definitive in most areas of coverage, but at the same time they are often somewhat indefinite in certain areas of coverage. This is particularly true where figures, either human or animal, are concerned. Some leeway was desirable here since it provided flexibility for possible future changes or even in the initial production, should one type figure prove to have advantages over another. Please understand this does not apply to design patents where the configuration of the bank was the coverage.

The New Creedmoor Bank, our choice as No. 263 in the numerical classification, well illustrates the flexibility as to figure coverage. The patent papers covering the New Creedmoor are actually those for the Creedmoor and the figure on each bank is entirely different. Further, the New Creedmoor is an unusual combination, in fact, of two quite different banks, the William Tell and the Creedmoor.

James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pa., patented the New Creedmoor Bank November 6, 1877, however, the patent papers show a figure of the type used on the Creedmoor. The patent papers state with respect to the figure: "A toy bank composed of a human or other animal figure." This allowed considerable leeway and at some point during the production of the Creedmoor, Bowen came up with the idea of using the William Tell type figure and the name New Creedmoor.

The Creedmoor Bank with its figure of a soldier enjoyed wide popularity for many years. It is a very proportionate handsome bank, typically a boy's item, and, of course, the soldier figure had certain appeal. In any case, it is quite logical that after years of production its popularity started to wane and Bowen decided to utilize the very attractive and somewhat flamboyant William Tell figure in place of the soldier. Also, the name New Creedmoor had a certain connotation and actually was a good sales point.

The J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Conn., manufactured the New Creedmoor, as well as the Creedmoor. They could have been an influencing factor in the development of the New Creedmoor since it enabled them to produce a different mechanical bank with a minimum of effort and expense. The only new pattern required was the base plate, and this change could have utilized the reworking of a Creedmoor pattern base. It was only necessary to change the spread between the

feet of the figure, add the word New over the word Creedmoor and obliterate the wording on the other raised section of the base.

The colors of the New Creedmoor are as follows: The base is an all over green with some highlighting in yellow, the two raised sections of the base are dark brown, the tree trunk is a dark reddish brown and the target section is tan with red circular lines. The cape of the figure is black with a red lining and brown collar. He wears a gray hat with red plume. His hair is black and his face and hands are skin tone. He has black eyes and eyebrows. The gun and tunic are black with a red belt and yellow edging on his upper right arm. He wears brown boots, yellow knee length flowing pantaloons, and his leg coverings are a sort of pink color. To complete the coloring, the base is painted green underneath, as is the case with the Creedmoor.

To operate the New Creedmoor, the gun is cocked by pushing back on the top section of the gun. This snaps in place causing the head of the figure to tilt forward as though taking aim. A coin is then placed on top of the gun as shown in photo. The right foot is pressed down and the gun fires the coin into the target on the tree, ringing a bell inside. The head returns automatically to position. The gun is made so that a paper cap could be used, thus giving a loud report when the gun was fired.

The date of the patent, November 6, 1877, appears under the name New Creedmoor on the raised section of the base.

Mechanical Banks activity and where to buy them

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1976

Mechanical bank collecting activity has certainly taken an upward surge in the past few months. This upward trend is particularly so with regard to auctions and the mechanical banks appearing in them. It really is fantastic the number of auctions of antiques occurring every week all over the place. And many of these auctions have one, two or even three mechanical banks in each of the respective sales. The mechanical banks, as well as cast iron toys, are advertised as being in the individual sales. This is a fairly recent addition to the advertisements covering antique auctions. It wasn't too many years ago that this was not the case — a mechanical would show up here and there in a sale, but there was no particular fanfare about it beforehand.

Today we even have special sales and auctions of mechanical banks and toys. The well known auction house P.B. 84, in New York City tries to have one or two toy and mechanical bank sales in a given year. Sotheby Parke Bernet, esteemed above all auction houses, have had mechanical banks in a sale or two. So mechanical banks, along with certain cast iron toys, have really arrived, attaining a status of being one of the hottest of collector's items. Auctions, then, in one definitive area have certainly added to the increased activity.

We have come into a period where toy meets or sales are held in various sections of the country. Individuals bring toys to sell at these events. As opposed to auctions, they are priced and usually exhibited on tables and so on. These meets as a rule show a good turnout of cast iron toys in various categories, mechanical banks, still banks, and tin toys also in various categories. Items are traded and bought between the exhibitors themselves and to collectors and the public in attendance. Here again, toy meets of this type have added to the up trend in activity.

Now we come to the vastly increased number of antique shows and so called 'flea markets'. When this phenomena of our modern times comes to a saturation point is anyone's guess, but there is one thing for sure, there would seem to be too many of them now, although all are well attended. Flea markets, as such, cover a multitude of sins under that name. Many are merely heaps of junk.

Transversely, others aren't too bad. Some rare mechanicals, as well as cast iron toys, turn up in these markets. True it's not very often, but it does happen, and occasionally a real 'buy' is made in a mechanical bank — then it goes through three or four hands and the price gets up there usually before it winds up in the hands of a collector. The greatly increased number of antique shows have brought more mechanicals out of hiding. Probably one of the top real antique shows was held in Philadelphia, Pa., recently. This is an annual show of high caliber antiques. It was surprising to see a number of mechanical banks scattered through various booths at this show, and the prices, while fairly high, were not exorbitant. As a matter of fact, a couple of the banks, including a fine Lion And Two Monkeys, all original and excellent paint, were priced quite reasonably. So we wind up with increased activity in mechanical banks due to antique shows and flea markets.

We arrive in another area where certain individuals deal exclusively in mechanical banks and still banks. Others are in cast iron toys, as well as banks. These specialists in this field generally do a good job and are a good source for mechanicals. They advertise, particularly in the Mechanical Bank Section of the magazine you are now reading. Most of these dealers are specialists in mechanical banks, and are not newcomers. Because of a possible omission or two, the writer will not attempt to list these specialists and, in any case, anyone can see their ads in this publication. With an increased number of individuals entering this field of mechanical banks and cast iron toys, a natural result has been an upswing in action.

There is another category of individuals who operate in a sort of fringe area with respect to mechanical banks. They are not antique dealers as such and not necessarily collectors. They have a certain interest, some are opportunists, and now and then come up with a mechanical bank, sometimes a rare one. They have other work as a rule, but do this fringe operation on the side. They don't advertise, and operate in sort of a gray area. They do get around, however, and now and then hit on a good bank. This is a difficult area to pin down in any definitive way except to point out as more have entered the field in this fashion of operation naturally they have added to the action.

Generally speaking, antique dealers who deal in a general line of antiques have an increased awareness of mechanical banks. There was a time when many antique dealers didn't know what you were asking about when you inquired about mechanical banks. Not so today, they all know and any one of them is subject to having a bank. This has added a dimension to the collecting of mechanical banks with a broader field of recognition.

Now we come to advertising. There are today more ads wanting to buy mechanical banks than in any previous time since mechanical banks were first collected. This is a good way to get results, not only for buying, but also selling. And naturally this increased advertising for banks to buy or to sell has added greatly to the activity in the field.

In closing, the writer hopes that the net result of this article will serve to answer the many, many letters he has received asking — 'Where can you buy mechanical banks? — What is a good source?', and so on. Good luck in your collecting and we have tried to be as definitive as possible.

Betsy Ross Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1976

The Bicentennial has resulted in an avalanche of items commemorating this historical event. The majority of these would seem to range from not too good on up to some rather interesting pieces, these better pieces being on the minority side. In either or any case, they range all over the map as to what they are (dishes, medals, figures, toys, spoons, etc.) and the materials of which they

are made (wood, glass, china, plastic, and various metals).

One of the more interesting items coming out in this Bicentennial Year of 1976 is a mechanical bank, and a nice one at that. Interesting is the fact that it is not just a Bicentennial item but rather initially issued during this period with its own identity for the future. In other words, it is not just a Bicentennial commemorative item or souvenir per se.

The bank is the Betsy Ross and full credit for its creation and the whole bit goes to Al Davidson, a fellow collector with a great interest in mechanical banks and a very nice collection of same. Al spent a lot of time and effort getting this bank together, from designing through model to working pattern to actual bank itself. This involved a number of procedures and various experimental trials and errors. The bank, for example, made completely of cast iron turned out to be too heavy, clumsy and unwieldy as are several of the mechanicals issued in recent times. So Al decided to reach a sensible compromise by having the base made in cast iron and the figure with flag in aluminum. This combination gives it just the right heft for a mechanical of its size and proportion.

The bank is limited to a production of 500 and each bank will have this cast in the base plate as well as its own respective number. It is scheduled to be available in the approximate time area of the appearance of this article.

The bases will all be painted the same in a dark maroon color. The dress worn by Betsy Ross will be available in earth colors of yellow, green or blue typical of her actual period in time. The name on the front of the bank is in gold with the needle and thread under the name in silver and white. The flag, of course, will be red, white and blue. Arms, hands and face of the figure are natural flesh color with well done facial features. Her bonnet is white as are certain parts of her dress. The sewing basket is a dark brown, her seat a lighter brown, and the cat in back is black. It is an attractive bank with quality paint work and exceptionally smooth casting.

To operate, a coin is placed in the top of the sewing basket. This will accommodate pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. A lever in the back is pressed and on so doing the figure and flag swing to the left (Betsy pivots or turns at her waist line). The recessed top of the sewing basket tilts causing the coin to slide inside the bank. The figure is reset manually for each operation.

Figure 1 shows the bank ready for operation. Figure 2 pictures the bank after the operation. Figure 3 is a side rear view showing the black cat and other details.

Cast on the underside front of the base plate is the following:

1776-1976
"A Needle Fights For Freedom"
Betsy Ross Bicentennial Bank
Limited Edition (Number)

Al Davidson's signature appears in a rectangular recessed section on the rear underside of the base.

Two foundries in different locations are used in the casting. The tumbling, assembly, and painting operations are each in different locations making an interesting challenge for Al in turning out a quality mechanical bank. For those interested in obtaining a Betsy Ross Bank, write to:

Mr. Al Davidson, 100 West Industry Court, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729

Wireless Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1976

Please refer to the September, 1975, issue of HOBBIES and the article on the Wireless Bank appearing, Page 55. At the time this article was written the writer could not find the original box for his example of the bank. He was sure when he bought the bank quite a few years ago that it was in its original box. He finally found it packed away and the box and instruction sheet are important from an informational standpoint showing the manufacturer, informative instructions pertaining to the bank and its proper operation.

To begin with, the box has a fine large, colored label on the top lid. The name, The Wireless Bank, along with a bolt of lightning appear on the label as well as a picture of the front of the bank. Most important, under the picture of the bank appears the following:

**THE JOHN HUGO MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.**

Sole Mfg. and selling rights under Christian Berger's Patents of March 11, 1913, November 10, 1914, December 19, 1916, September 24, 1918 and February 7, 1922.

A 4-1/2" x 6-1/4" instruction card numbered 21489 was originally packed in the box with the bank. This card has stamped diagonally across the face in red letters: 'IMPORTANT READ'. The card is particularly helpful to all collectors owning a Wireless Bank. We quote from this card as follows:

No. 21489 WIRELESS BANK

One of the famous Teletoy's manufactured and sold only by The JOHN HUGO MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 60-62 Franklin Street, New Haven, Conn., under C. E. Bergers' patents of March 11, 1913, November 10, 1914, December 19, 1916, September 24, 1918, and February 7, 1922, which rights will be fully protected.

Directions for Operating

1. Place Bank on level surface. 2. Turn coin holder which is on top of bank over until it rests on the electro magnet, where it should stay. 3. Place coin, (one, five, ten or 25 cent piece) gently on coin holder, without jarring Bank, being sure that edge of coin rests against the two projections on coin holder. 4. Coin holder being in position call loudly: GO, CASH, or any appropriate word, or CLAP THE HANDS and to your surprise the money will be deposited in the bank.

IMPORTANT

Do not leave coin holder in contact when not in use, as it runs down the battery, the current is turned on only when the coin holder rests on the electro magnet. It is important that the Bank should not be left in this condition when not in use as it wastes the current.

PLEASE NOTE

All the electric parts of this toy except the battery, last indefinitely and the battery has ample power to operate the toy many thousand times, proved by actual tests. The battery is of standard size and can be replaced by any dealer in flashlights, or will be sent by us Parcel Post Prepaid upon receipt of ten 2c stamps.

To replace the battery, simply remove old battery and place new one in pocket, being careful that top and bottom of battery form connections with brass holders. Batteries sometimes come a little short, if so, simply bend end holders so that battery will bear on both ends.

When replacing battery, be sure that contact points at bottom and top of battery are clean. Scraping with a knife blade will assure this.

Should Bank not work properly, first, clean contact points on outside of the ends of the Bank by rubbing amulet against stationary wires, next rub finger over end of magnet on roof of Bank and also on contact space on coin holder.

To unlock Bank use one of the keys, and you will find on turning the key in the key-hole on

bottom of Bank, that the door will sprint out, thus enabling you to remove the money. To lock, simply spring door back in place, being sure key is not in keyhole.

THE JOHN HUGO MFG CO., NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Also, a small envelope containing a key was enclosed. We quote from the printed information on the envelope:

IMPORTANT READ

Before using, unlock bottom of bank with key contained herein, after which take battery out of money chamber and place in battery pocket being sure that terminals press firmly against Brass tip and bottom of battery.

As one can readily see, the box and instructions sheet for the Wireless are particularly helpful both as to background information and hints as to proper operation.

Two Exceptional Still Banks

by **F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1976**

We thought we would break up the routine of mechanical banks, which we haven't done for some time, and take a change of pace with two very fine interesting still banks. A number of collectors of the mechanicals also collect or have a certain interest in selective still banks. And, of course, there are many collectors of the stills only, some of whom have very extensive collections. As compared to the mechanicals insofar as numbers are concerned, still banks offer a much greater field. There are literally thousands of still banks in varying degrees of importance and material, and there are some exceptionally fine still banks, with those made of cast iron, generally speaking, being the most desirable.

Pictured herewith are two particularly fine stills, the Horse On Wheel Platform in cast iron and the Sewing Machine in sheet metal. Each would seem to be somewhat hard to come by and could be classed in relative rarer category of still banks.

The Horse shown is one of the finest detailed castings the writer has ever seen in a bank. All indications are that it was made by Kyser & Rex of Philadelphia, Pa., probably circa 1880 to 1890. The bank very definitely has things in common with the excellent Apple Bank made by Kyser & Rex, one of the best of the stills. The Horse also has comparative features to some of the mechanicals made by this company. While all this is not proof of the origin of the Horse, it is very definitive and indicative. In any case, it is one of the better stills and a toy bank of handsome appearance. It is interesting to note that it is a pull toy as well as a bank and there is a hole in the front end of the platform to accommodate a string.

It is made in two halves held together by a screw as shown in the photo. The right foreleg is fastened to the platform or base, as is the right rear leg. In removing coins, this right half of the horse stays with the platform. The coin slot is in the top of the head just below the ears. A small spring inside the slot holds deposited coins in the body of the horse. That is to say the coins cannot be shaken out of the slot.

Coloring of the bank is as follows: The overall horse is a rich brown with black tail and mane. The lower part of his legs, including the hoofs, are also black. He has white eyes and red nostrils. The reins are a light tan, as is the saddle. The saddle blanket is blue with red striping. The wide saddle band is white with a red stripe. The base or platform is an all over green with a definition of a tree stump in brown and tan. The wheels are red.

This Horse still bank simply has a lot going for it, veined detail is even shown on the body of the

horse — the platform is a well designed configuration of graceful appearance, not just some routine rectangular shape — proportions are unusually good and it is of imposing size being 8-3/4" in height and 8" long. The bank was found in the Middleton area of New Jersey.

The Singer Sewing Machine Bank shown is another exceptionally well made item. Rather than an iron casting like the Horse, the Sewing Machine is an unusually well made stamping in sheet iron. Coins are inserted in the slot in the top cover and this is removed by means of a key shown in place in the photo.

This bank was found in Spring Lake, N. J., and according to the information given the writer the original owner had obtained it in the 1910 period. It has the old Singer mark on the top cover — a large S with the long skirted woman at her Singer machine. This is on the front and back of the cover.

The overall cover and top of the bank are a mottled brown giving the appearance of wood. The ornate support legs are black with gold striping. A large S is in gold on each oval section end, and the word Singer appears in gold on the center flat support brace. The treadle is stamped to look as a treadle should.

Here again a very fine still bank of interesting design and appearance. One could say a step above what one might ordinarily visualize as a toy bank. It is comparable in its field of stills to the quite desirable Sewing Machine mechanical, the American Bank.

Queen Victoria Bust Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1976

It just had to happen sooner or later — a Queen Victoria Bust with the original paint untouched. Now at long last we can pass along this important interesting information as to the accurate colorings of this great bust type bank.

Speaking of the bank as a 'great bust type' brings us to the point that after careful consideration the Queen Victoria is probably the top ranking bust type mechanical. It has everything going for it. It is a representation of an actual person, a Queen no less! It is historical, commemorating a special event, and it has fine identification cast on three sides of the bank. What more could one ask for in a bust type mechanical. Also it's well to mention that the operation is unique — a coin dropped into the crown causing the eyes to move up and down several times, due to the weight of the coin and the counter balancing of the eyes. The heavy English penny imparts the best action and the bank was made to operate with this particular coin. Two banks with similar action are Bill E. Grin and Darky Bust (Tin), but neither is the same action as the Queen Victoria.

The colors of this important mechanical are as follows: Her face, ears and neck are a flesh color, and she has black hair and eyebrows. Her lips are red and cheeks are tinted red. Her eyes are light tan with black pupils. The crown is gold, as is a sort of cloth-like effect draped under the crown. She wears a rather heavy five strand multiple type gold necklace and rather sizeable loop type gold earrings. The v-shaped area between the necklace and her robe or whatever is light red. The rest of her robe like apparel is dark blue. The pendant or watch on her left front shoulder area is gold with a red bow. The three sections of lettering, dates, and so on are all gold. The perforated base plate is finished in what the English call maroon — or as we know it a japanned type finish. Figure 2 shows the back of the bank and the large section of her snood or hair covering — this is an orange-red and drapes down over the back of her shoulders. Where paint chipping has occurred, it reveals a flesh color (same as face) undercoat beneath the orange-red. Needless to say, the variety of colors used

on the Queen add considerably to the appearance of this fine mechanical.

As shown in Figure 1, the inscription across the front reads: 'JUBILEE. 1887 — GOD SAVE THE QUEEN'. On her right side: 'PATENT No. 14197'. Across her back, Figure 2: 'BORN MAY 24th 1819 — CROWNED JUNE 20th 1837 — MARRIED FEBY 10th 1840'.

Other information on the Queen Victoria has appeared in HOBBIES, November 1974.

The bank shown is one of the outstanding recent additions to the fine extensive collection of Ed Mosler.

The International Antique Toy Show and M.B.C.A. Convention by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1976

Bob Bostoff and Phil Caponi did it again — the 2nd International Hotel Antique Toy Show, a real fine display of old toys for sale covering a wide range of kinds and types. It really is a top show in its specialized field. This one was held Sunday, September 26th, and there were 180 exhibitors with a great variety of toys for sale and a few for trade only. Exhibitors consisted of dealers, collectors, and collector-dealers. It was a well attended affair and crowded with buyers and lookers from beginning to end. There was a lot of action and quite obviously numbers of sales were made, as well as some trade transactions.

A very interesting unexpected surprise had to do with the number of mechanical banks for sale at this show as opposed to the first one held in 1975. There were mechanical banks all over the place. Bob McCumber was in attendance as an exhibitor and had a nice selection of mechanicals. John Haley from England flew over for this and the Mechanical Bank Convention (see below), and he displayed a fine group of mechanical banks, including some of the rarer ones such as the Tommy Bank. John mentioned that business was brisk and he did well both selling and buying.

Ron Van Anda flew in from California and he had nearly 100 mechanical banks for sale, several of these were exceptionally nice mechanicals, all original and fine paint condition. For example, the Trick Pony he had was in unusually fine paint and this is one of the really hard mechanicals to find in this condition. An excellent Speaking Dog Bank and Bull Dog Bank were on a par with the Trick Pony, as well as a number of others.

Joe Olimpio exhibited a nice group of banks, as well as the Werbell's with a good selection of still banks. There were numbers of other exhibitors with mechanical banks, and while we will not attempt to name all of them, sufficient to say mechanical banks were certainly there and available to buyers. The writer stresses this because of the number of letters he receives asking where mechanical banks can be purchased, where they can be found for sale, and so on. Well this is certainly one of the places.

Lloyd Ralston had some real fine cast iron toys, as well as a mechanical or two on display. In particular a Trick Dog Bank (6-Part Base) in exceptional original condition. Also, a cast iron motorcycle with a regular dressed man, rather than a policeman as the rider-driver. This is unusual.

Tin toys were everywhere, including comics and you name it. One of the outstanding tin toys of the show in the writer's opinion was displayed by Mark Suozzi. It consisted of a flat embossed tin rectangular base showing the Atlantic Ocean and part of the United States and Europe. Forming a triangle on this base are three buildings — one over Germany with the roof marked Friedrichshafen, one over Buffalo, and another over New Jersey with the roof marked Lakehurst. There is a pulley on an extended shaft on each of the roofs of the three buildings.

An endless cord runs on these three pulleys by means of the motorized pulley on the Friedrichshafen building. Suspended on the endless cord is a Zeppelin. Three upright ships are on

the ocean, as well as others in lithograph. New York City is shown with the Woolworth Building and the Statue of Liberty. It is a very attractive, colorful, well made tin toy and the Zeppelin travels from Germany to the U.S. The historical background of the toy is well represented by the toy itself and is of great interest. The LZ126 Zeppelin Airship of 2,470,000 cubic feet was constructed in Germany as a war reparation payment to the U.S. — later it was christened the Los Angeles. It was then delivered to the U.S. by transatlantic flight in October, 1924. This interesting toy was made to commemorate this flight.

Other exhibitors had toy trains in cast iron and tin, as well as Lionel, Ives, American Flyer, and so on. There were Mickey Mouse items including an animated clock or two. Battery operated toys were well in evidence and these are fast becoming a thing to increasing numbers of collectors. The Sadagursky's specialize in these and had a fine display. Around the show of particular interest in the battery type were — a large monkey that went through the three motions of Hear, Speak, and See No Evil. A large dinosaur 'Dino' with Fred Flintstone astride, Dino moves each leg, moves his head and neck up and down, turns his head, and Fred rocks back and forth all this accompanied by a weird noise. A large tin tree trunk with tree limb arms and a face, the eyes go up and down and the arms move back and forth, it wanders around the floor emitting a most ominous sound. Oh, yes, the top of the trunk is a leaf representation that rocks back and forth. Not for sale this one, just displayed.

For those interested in toys, this is the place to go.

The Mechanical Bank Collectors of America held their convention October 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the Sheraton Valley Forge Motor Inn. It was well attended by about 94 members. Things really got rolling Friday night and numbers of mechanical banks changed hands. Actually there was some jumping of the gun on Thursday, September 30th, when quite a few showed up to beat the crowd more or less. Which is certainly o.k. of course, since they say the 'early bird gets the worm.'

On Saturday there was an auction of mechanicals followed by a display of banks by dealers and then a continuation of the auction. Mechanicals were also for sale in various of the rooms. Involved in all this was John Haley and Van Anda (also at International). Bob McCumber has some nice mechanicals, as well as still banks. He was also at International. Norm Crider had a fine display during the Dealer's Exhibit, as well as Max Berry with a Little Jocko and a Monkey & Parrot among others.

It would seem to the writer that the biggest news of the convention as far as any one mechanical bank goes would be the acquisition by Al Davidson of the Turtle Bank. This is a really tough bank to come by and the one Al obtained is a real nice example, all original with no repairs — which is important — and very nice paint condition.

Good action continued even after the banquet Saturday night and on Sunday members were invited to Lee Perelman's fine Museum of Toys in Philadelphia.

A lot of buying and trading went on in various categories of the mechanicals and a somewhat rare one here and there changed hands, such as, for example, the Tommy Bank. All in all it was an interesting affair and afforded member collectors an opportunity to add to their respective collections. There were certainly a goodly number of mechanical banks around the place.

The A.T.C.A. Convention

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1977

The steeped in tradition Bicentennial City of Philadelphia, Pa., was the selected meeting place for members of the Antique Toy Collectors of America Fall Convention. It was held in the Holiday Inn, located near the Liberty Bell, October 29th, 30th, and 31st. The weather was brisk and pleasant and the Inn is very conveniently located within walking distance of a number of interesting places, including Independence Hall, as well as the Liberty Bell in its location.

As is so often the case with the Toy Convention, along with the Mechanical Bank Convention, early or day before arrivals are not uncommon. So there were a few early birds on Thursday, October 28th, and there was some action that afternoon and evening. Action, of course, meaning buying, selling and trading of antique toys. Aside from the social aspect, that's what these conventions are all about – the opportunity for members to obtain toys for their respective collections and there is a lot of wheeling and dealing that goes on. After all there are not too many places where a toy collector can go and be exposed to hundreds of old toys both for sale and trade.

So there was some activity Thursday afternoon and evening. Members then really started coming in on Friday, the official registration day, and it was 'toys in the rooms' from around three o'clock in the afternoon until well after twelve midnight. A good representative group showed up with about 144 members in attendance.

On Saturday morning, a business meeting of one hour was held from nine o'clock until ten o'clock and then an old toy auction took place. Members are allowed to put one toy each in the auction up to an overall total of 76 toys. The auction ran until about eleven-thirty or so and was well attended with toys going to new owners. Around twelve-thirty the group had lunch in the Penn Mutual Towers and the remainder of the afternoon was devoted to Lee Perelman's Antique Toy Museum and historic sites in the area. A visit to Lee's museum is always worthwhile and a never ending pleasure for anyone, particularly antique toy collectors. And Philadelphia has so many historical sites to offer that have added interest for the Bicentennial or, of course, any time for that matter.

The banquet was held Saturday evening at seven o'clock and the Toy Collectors really do a job of it with their favors for each member. These included an excellent reprint of an old Arcade Toy Catalog showing cast iron toys and banks, a nice little toy automobile with the wording 'Antique Toy Collectors of America' on each side, a reprint of an old broadside showing various toys, two very colorful poster type items suitable for framing, and finally another reprint sheet to do with toys. After the banquet there was more visiting of rooms and some buying and selling.

On Sunday, October 31st, open house was held by the Siegel's, Schafle's, and the Bill Holland's. Maps were available so members could visit the open houses and see the respective collections.

Of interest are some of those in attendance and what they brought to the convention to sell and trade. Understand, the club consists of collectors, dealer-collectors, collector-dealers, and some dealers only, all of course, having to do with the specialized field of antique toys.

Our good friend, Frank Whitson, and his wife Fran were among the early arrivers and as always Frank had some unusual toys for sale. Of particular note was a large size Ives circus band wagon pulled by four horses and all bandsmen were original except one. This is a toy one does not run across very often. A single horse Pratt & Letchworth carriage was on display, along with an Ives type crawling monkey. Also, a Foxy Grandpa Cart and another Foxy Grandpa that flips his hat. All of these in cast iron, along with some other toys such as the Ives Mikado with twirling umbrella in its original box. Frank also had some still banks including the Kneeling Camel, Bassett Hound, Streetcar, Gas Pump, and a tin Kaiser's Helmet World War I bank.

Larry Whitley was in from California & another early arriver. He brought quite a varied selection including various toy automobiles in tin and cast iron — a rather rare camelback

locomotive pull toy — the Eagle bell ringer — mechanical figures — an unusual ferris wheel clock, and some comic character watches. Another unusual piece was an American string toy, a bone shaker bike with a man rider. It was patented November 12, 1867 by W. Humans and is in fine original condition. Larry also had an extra nice condition, all original Wilkins Hook & Ladder complete with driver, steerman, and all ladders, a fine toy.

Another early arrival was Ed Mosler who has a second collection of bell ringer toys for sale. He brought several with him, including Ding Dong Bell and the rather rare Monkey Chariot. Ed has an outstanding collection of the bell ringing toys which form a complete group unto themselves. Most of the bell ringing toys in this group are animated, that is to say a complete figure or parts of a figure have movement in connection with the ringing of a bell.

Paul Dunnigan, another early bird, had several fine cast iron trucks and cars — an early mobile with three tin biplanes — a Foxy Grandpa loose tin figure carriage type nodder — early tin automobiles, and various other toys.

Lloyd Ralston arrived Friday with a fine group of toys. Included were an interesting William S. Reed paper and wood Tally-Ho in great shape, also a cast iron Carpenter Tally-Ho. Two very unusual marble toys, an Ives wind-up cast iron locomotive, early trackless type, and the oversize Kenton train with two cars. He had a variety of tin toys including the large size Converse streetcar in its original wood box.

Bob Lowe from Bethlehem, Pa., had a really nice Hubley two seated brake with all original figures, a most attractive cast iron toy. Also, in extra fine condition, a Kilgore Stutz auto roadster, an Amos & Andy tin taxi, as well as the Mama Katzenjammer donkey cart, a Wilkins coach with two horses, and the 384 Andy Gump Car. In mechanical banks, Bob had Uncle Sam and the Jolly Nigger Hi Hat.

Lowell Peltier from Buckeye Lake, Ohio, brought several still and mechanical banks, along with the rare Swamp Fire cannon and a Popeye rowboat. He had several Lehman toys in their original boxes, and a number of working live steam engines, also cast iron toy cars.

Tony Koveleski showed up with two unusual toys, a dressed Frenchman riding a tricycle, great condition, a large size tin pusher type biplane circa 1910, exceptional condition and original figure and a Watrous strap iron bell ringer with Charlie Chaplin and Mammy figures. And some animated pistols, including the Butting Match, Two Monkeys, Monkey & Cocomat, and the Duck.

Russ Harrington had the rare two horse Nodder's wagon with recast figures of Foxy Grandpa, Happy Hooligan, and Gloomy Gus, a Royal Circus cage wagon, Royal calliope, and several still banks.

Sally Erath and Harry Ulman had the large four horse Hubley circus band wagon — Farmer's Van — Giraffe Wagon — and the Calliope, quite a group of the Hubley circus toys, all large size. They had a fine Wilkins hose reel which is one of the most attractive of these reel type fire toys, and the Kenton Happy Hooligan Patrol.

All in all, the convention was a good affair, and please understand that the individuals with their toys as listed in the foregoing are a cross section and sampling, not a complete listing by any means.

Punch & Judy (Cast Iron Front, Tin Back) **by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1977**

A rather interesting cast iron and tin English mechanical bank is our choice as No. 264 in the numerical classification at this time. We still do not have as much background information about

this bank as we would like. We know it was made in England as it so states on the bank itself. The word 'Nestor' appears, but so far we have been unable to track this down. No dates or patent information appear on the bank, however, everything about it indicates circa 1900 to 1920's.

The English Punch & Judy as compared to the American, is not a particularly colorful bank, but the combination of finishes used is unusual and of interest. The cast iron front of the bank has an overall bronze type finish. The name Punch & Judy is a bright brass or bronze color, while the wording 'One Penny' is a dark bronze color. The figure of the dog is also done in the bronze effect. The figures of Punch and Judy are painted in colors. Punch has a white face and hand. He holds a white club with a red stripe. He has a red mouth and nose, and his eye is black. His hat and jacket are green. The face of Judy, her hat, and baby are all white. Her dress is green. Both Judy and baby have a red mouth and eyes in black. The tin background of the stage is green, as is the entire tin back coin section of the bank.

On the back of the peak of the cast iron front appears the word 'NESTOR' and under this 'Made In England'. The tin box shape back of the bank is riveted in each of the four corners to the cast iron front. The tin bottom plate of the box shape back is a hinged key locking coin trap.

To operate the bank a coin is placed on the upward tilted protruding lip under the 'One Penny' wording. Depressing the lever on the left side of the bank causes the figures to rise into position as shown in Figure 2, and in so doing the coin slides into the provided slot and on into the tin box-like back coin receptacle. Coins cannot enter the coin slot until the figures are in the up position. On releasing the lever the figures automatically drop into position as shown in Figure 1.

A vertical slot is just under the coin holding lip. This serves as a centering guide for the figures of Punch and Judy as they lift into position. The figures move up and down in the provided space between the cast iron front and the tin back.

So far only three of these banks are known to exist in collections. The one pictured was recently obtained by Wally Tudor and it makes a nice addition to his fine extensive collection. It is all original and in quite good condition as to bronze finish and paint.

Harold Lloyd Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1977

Mechanical banks representing actual persons are few and far between, and our choice at this time of Harold Lloyd as No. 265 in the numerical classification fits right into this rare category. In his time, Harold Lloyd was a well known personality as a top ranking comedy silent film star.

The bank shown represents Harold Lloyd in his younger silent film days and was made circa 1920's. It is a quite good representation of Lloyd facially and he has his characteristic large rimmed glasses & sailor straw hat. The lithography is very well done and, while there are no markings of any kind, the bank is unquestionably of German manufacture.

Colors of the bank are quite attractive and appropriate to Harold Lloyd. He wears a yellow sailor hat with a black band, his face is flesh color with high-lightings in red and black to give definition and depth. His rather heavy eyebrows and heavy rimmed glasses are black. He has white eyes with brown iris and black pupils. His lips are red and teeth are white. He wears a blue jacket and white shirt with blue criss-crossing and plain collar. His tie is blue with white polka dots. He has a large red daisy-like flower in his lapel. His large tongue, which protrudes in operation, is red. Also in red is the entire rear box-like coin container section of the bank.

To operate the bank, the lever (left side by hat rim) is depressed. This causes the eyes to roll, the

jaw to move down (opening mouth), and his tongue to stick out. A coin is placed on the protruding tongue, and on releasing the lever all parts return automatically to position as shown in the picture. As the tongue darts back inside the bank the coin falls therein. Coins are removed by means of a locking sliding top coin trap on the box-like back.

The Harold Lloyd Bank is a nice attractive item and has a bit going for it. It's extremely hard to come by in any condition. The one shown, as a matter of fact, is the only one known so far that could be called in really extra fine condition. The bank bears marked similarities to the British Lion and several others of like configuration, all of German make.

Bonzo Bank (Tin)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1977

In choosing the Bonzo Bank as No. 266 in the numerical classification, one might say we have picked the Mickey Mouse of England to occupy this position. That is to say, Bonzo to England is in many ways comparable with Mickey Mouse to the United States. Bonzo was a particularly popular cartoon character of the 1920's and 1930's with very wide appeal to the British population in this period. The fact that Bonzo is a recognized cartoon character adds considerably to the interest and value of the Bonzo Bank.

In recent years comic and cartoon type toys in tin, cast iron, and other materials have reached a high level of desirability. This passes right along to both still and mechanical banks as well. We will not attempt to cover all the different cartoon and comic character toys, sufficient to say there are many. They include cartoon figures such as Happy Hooligan, Popeye, Katzenjammer Kids, Mutt & Jeff, and others. Also included are comic figures such as Harold Lloyd, Amos & Andy, Charlie Chaplin, and others.

The Bonzo Bank has several other tin mechanical companion banks of similar configuration and operation. These are Mickey Mouse, Scotchman, Minstrel, and Jolly Joe. They form a very interesting group. Further, Mickey Mouse and Bonzo share an interesting feature, each having a picture scene on the respective back of both banks. See Figure 2 for back of Bonzo.

The Bonzo shown is in fine all original condition. Lithograph colors are as follows: The overall front and sides are red, the top and base black, and the back yellow. On the front, Figure 1, the face and paws of Bonzo are shaded tan. His eyes are blue and black, his right ear, nose, and lines on his face are black. He has a red mouth and tongue. Lettering is in black. On the back, Figure 2, the full figure of Bonzo is the same coloring as the head and paws on the front. Here his left ear is black. The table is green and the Bonzo bank sitting on the table is colored as the bank itself. Lettering is black and Bonzo holds a coin in his right paw. Also, on the back appears the German trademark or patent D.R.G.M., the double S in a circle, and the name Bavaria. The sides of the bank have decorations in yellow and dark and light green.

To operate the bank, the lever on front is depressed, causing a large tongue to protrude and the eyes to lower. A coin is placed on the tongue and the lever raised. Parts return to position as shown in Figure 1 and the coin slides from the tongue on into the bank. Coins are removed by means of a key locking coin trap in the base.

The short poem under the paws advises:

**Press the lever lightly,
Watch my tongue appear,**

**Save a penny nightly,
Make your fortune here.**

Bonzo, like Mickey Mouse, is an extremely tough bank to come by. For some reason neither bank would seem to have been made in any great quantity and apparently few survived to the present time.

Watch Dog Savings Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1977

A mechanical bank which is a complete departure from our usual cast iron or tin type mechanical is our choice as No. 267 in the numerical classification. This bank is the Watch Dog Savings Bank and is mainly constructed of wood, with some tin parts for the operating mechanism. Do not confuse this bank with the better known Watch Dog Safe Bank, which is cast iron and has a dog on the safe door. Our present bank is a dog house with dog and the name well displayed on a metal plate over the entrance way as shown in Figure 1.

Once again we have a quite unique mechanical in the Watch Dog Savings Bank. It operates on the basis of sound similar to the Wireless Bank, however, no batteries are involved. The dog house idea is rather unusual for a mechanical and the house itself is mainly made of oak wood and the dog is of some type hard wood.

Actually the company involved in making the bank also made a toy of the same configuration and basic action. Only in the case of the toy it was a somewhat larger dog house and a battery was used to operate the sound responding mechanism. It is from the toy that we are able to date the bank as they were made in the same time period. The paper label on the bottom of the toy states: 'Manufactured under C. Berge Patents March 11, 1913 and November 10, 1914'. No dates are on the label of the bank as shown in Figure 2. The toy was known as 'The Wireless Pup', and according to the label sold for \$5.00. Quite a price for a toy of this nature in 1913.

The bank shown is in very nice condition, although the dog's face is somewhat chipped from usage. A natural occurrence since he scoots so forcefully out of the dog house. The house is a very dark oak and the dog is brown with markings in black and white. The nameplate is silver lettering over black.

The operation, manufacturer, and so on are best described by the large paper label on the bottom of the bank, Figure 2. We quote from this label as follows:

DIRECTIONS

Place the dog on the floor of house. Holding the dog's head between the thumb and forefinger, push dog back gently against spring flapper until you hear a click and the dog will go no farther — then draw dog forward gently just a trifle. DO NOT JAM THE DOG BACK HARD OR TRY TO FORCE IT FARTHER THAN IT WILL GO. Now place a coin gently in the slot in the top of roof and clap your hands loudly in front of the door (cupping the hands so that the noise is like a bursting paper bag brings the best results.) The dog will jump out of the kennel and the money disappear into the bank in the top of the kennel. A loud call will have the same effect, provided you strike the proper note.

ADJUSTMENT. Every Watch Dog Savings Bank is tested before leaving the factory. Please note, however, this is a sensitive toy Responding to Sound Waves and in shipment with

the consequent rough handling the mechanism may get out of adjustment. To remedy this there is an adjusting screw on the back of kennel outside.

If the spring flapper fails to hold when dog is pushed way back, turn this adjustment screw in slightly a little at a time, trying the dog each time until it holds. If the spring holds and dog will not come out when called, turn adjustment screw out slightly a little at a time trying the dog until it does respond.

This adjusting screw controls the sensitiveness of the toy to sound. Screwing in adjustment screw tends to make the dog hold in the kennel; screwing out on adjustment screw tends to make the dog release easier by making it more sensitive to sound. Very slight adjustment is all that is necessary.

TO GET MONEY OUT OF BANK remove one screw from name plate on front of kennel and turn plate down which will show an opening in the bank.

If dog is set on a smooth table he will jump out farther and better than on a rough cloth cover.

**Patent Rights Protected
NATIONAL COMPANY
Mechanical Specialty Engineers
273-279 Congress Street Boston, Mass., U.S.A.**

All in all, the Watch Dog Savings Bank is a very interesting item and makes a fine addition to a collection of mechanicals. The mechanism is really unique, cleverly made, and the only kind of its type known to the writer. A hard bank to come by and apparently only three are known to exist in collections.

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Some Thoughts On Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1977

In thinking back to the Bicentennial, it would seem that there was only one really good mechanical bank made to commemorate this important event. This is the limited edition Betsy Ross Bank for sale to collectors or anyone who chose to buy one. This puts the bank in a little different category than the Mary Roebling or the Sears Uncle Sam. Neither of these banks were available to the public, or to collectors for that matter. The three banks share one thing in common, they are mechanical and as mechanical banks are collectible in the modern category, but not the same had

they been sold in stores to the general public. And their intent was never as a child's toy, which is all right, of course, but does put them in a little different category as compared to commercially produced mechanical banks sold in stores to the public in general.

It is surprising that more banks were not produced for the Bicentennial. There was one very nice still bank on the market. It consists of a hollow cube of lucite with a metal Liberty Bell suspended inside. The bell has a clapper and rings when the bank is shaken. As advertised a coin dropped in the bank rings the bell by hitting it. This brings up a point — it is very definitely not a mechanical bank. There is no mechanism involved, no mechanical parts, and no action or animation. There is only sound — the ting of the bell. There have been those who feel that a bank like this should be classed as a mechanical bank. There is absolutely no way to justify this and it is only a still bank, nothing else.

During the Centennial of 1876, a cast iron Liberty Bell was produced with a small bell inside. Depositing a coin caused the inside bell to ring as the coin hit the bell. This is a still bank and has always been properly classified as such. There is no way to justify its being mechanical any more than the one produced for the Bicentennial.

There are mechanical banks that play music such as the Treasure Chest Music Bank. These banks have mechanisms and the coin, when deposited, starts the mechanism causing the music to play. This definitely qualifies them as mechanical — they have operating moving parts and the coin activates the musical action.

To carry the ringing of a bell a step farther, there is a mechanical bank known as the Crescent Cash Register Bank. This is cast iron and it rings a bell. However, it has mechanism inside and when a coin is placed in the proper slot and the respective lever pressed, the mechanism causes the bell to ring. The levers will not work or ring the bell unless a coin is used in its proper slot: penny, nickel, dime and quarter. This bank fully qualifies as a mechanical, it does not register the money and is not, therefore, a registering bank. It is a very attractive, well made cast iron cash register type bank. It is circa 1890 to 1910. The bank is nickel plated, well cast, and has a combination drawer for removal of coins. It is No. 268 in the numerical classification. The drawer is shown slightly open in the photo.

Every now and then someone asks when the 1935 date will be advanced — this separating modern from old or antique mechanicals. There should be a spread of 45 to, better still, 50 years, and nothing is to be gained by advancing the date in the near future. Few banks were produced between 1935 to 1941. Then World War II caused practically all production of mechanical banks to stop and nothing really got started again until the late 1940's and early 1950's.

More Thoughts On Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1977

We felt it important enough to extend last month's thoughts on mechanical banks on into the present month. We have covered that a bell caused to ring by a coin hitting the bell does not qualify as a mechanical bank and we covered the 1935 break-off date for the old or antique mechanicals.

In the bell ringing phase another example of a mechanical should be mentioned. This is the Memorial Money Bank of the 1876 Centennial. This bank has the Liberty Bell on a platform or base. There is a lever in front of the bell. When a coin is inserted or pressed into the slot, this lever is pushed back and as the coin goes into the bank the lever snaps forward causing the bell to ring. This bank then fully qualifies as a mechanical. There is moving mechanism and a lever causes the bell to ring when a coin is used.

Let's take the still bank Independence Hall Tower for comparison with the Memorial Money Bank. You can drop coins in this bank and nothing happens. It is necessary to push the bell ringing lever by hand to cause the bell to ring. This bank has no area to qualify it as mechanical. There are those who class it as a semi-mechanical and there is no harm done if somebody as an individual collector wants to do so. But to have a semi-mechanical group established and recognized as such seems like such a waste of time and always leaves the line of demarcation between mechanical and still less defined. There are probably 20 banks or less that would, if we stretch a point, qualify as semi-mechanical. Then the next thing would be still banks with wheels. These have parts that move, and shouldn't they be semi-mechanical. What we are trying to point out here is that a semi-mechanical group would only serve to confuse the issue, rather than clear it. There is no real need for such a group to exist and no real purpose to justify having it.

A sticky situation does exist around several still banks that are classed as mechanical. Two outstanding examples are the Sewing Machine and the Camera. One can drop coins in either bank all day and nothing happens. So why are they classed as mechanical? — simple — years ago with no particular ground rules established they were called mechanical banks and recognized as such. They really aren't, however, as at the present time there is no way to justify classing them as such. On the other hand, why change tradition? — why change their position today? Here, again, there is nothing to be gained by doing so, and several exceptions to the rules as established have a certain interest. What harm is there in leaving the Camera and Sewing Machine stand as they are? — None. They are wonderful banks with nice action and there is just no real reason to put them in the still bank category after all their years of background tradition as mechanical banks. And even worse would be to relegate them to limbo and class them as semi-mechanicals.

Now we get into another 'is it a still or mechanical' when we come to a bank where a light bulb is caused to light when a coin is inserted. Let us take, for example, a lighthouse type bank where the insertion of a coin causes the bulb to light. Is this mechanical action? — the lighting of a bulb. There is certainly no animation or moving mechanism involved. There is some wiring, a battery or two, and contact points for the coin to cause the light to go on. Visually, you see the light go on and off — is this a mechanical bank? — how can we justify its being so? — we can't, and no one should delude themselves into trying to do so. Certainly a bank of this type is a collectible item, but it really belongs in the still bank category. Of course, some of the die-hards who insist there should be a semi-mechanical bank group would place this type bank in that category. When one thinks of it in its proper perspective there aren't that many banks that light a bulb to really worry about anyway. Even if there were only one, however, it should be clarified as to its position.

It is rather important at this time to give recognition to a number of the mechanicals that, based on their patent date, are now in the 100 year old category. There are a few of them and this most certainly justifies, or at least adds, to the usage of the terminology 'antique,' rather than just 'old' when referring to these particular banks. So we now have a nice small group of banks whose patent dates put them in the century old division. These banks are as follows:

Type I and Type II of the Serrill Bureau, Hall's Excelsior, Horse Race Type I and Type II, Frog On Arched Track, Home Bank Type I and Type II, Frog On Round Base, National Bank, Novelty Bank, Tammany Bank, Cupola Bank, Hall's Lilliput Types I, II, and III, Panorama Bank, Memorial Money Bank, Bank Teller Bank, Preacher In The Pulpit, Target Bank, Guessing Bank, and three that will qualify in November of 1977 — Creedmoor and Hold The Fort Type I and Type II. So that totals 25 banks with a patent date of 100 or more years. A nice group and may we point out included are several really rare banks that are particularly tough to come by.

In closing for now, let's go back to the semi-mechanical situation for a moment or two. This

small group of banks was gradually formed years ago when the finest still bank sold for around \$2.50 and some of the mechanicals could be bought for \$5.00 to \$7.50 each. In calling a still bank semi-mechanical at this time, a dealer, or whoever, could charge a little more for it. There was no other reason whatsoever, that's all there was to it, just to sell the bank for a small amount more. By calling a bank semi-mechanical it sounded more important than 'still bank,' which was not a very important terminology at the time.

Today the whole situation has changed. Still banks have come into their own and many of them sell for more than some of the mechanicals. So what earthly purpose does semi-mechanical serve in the present time? There are thousands of still banks, over 300 old mechanicals, and hundreds of registering banks. In a group of so called semi-mechanicals there would be around, give or take a few, 20 banks. Banks are now defined into three groups: mechanical, still, and registering, and this adequately covers the situation and leaves good lines of demarcation between each of the three.

Collecting Mechanical Banks — How It All Started

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1977

Collectors of mechanical banks today number in the thousands and most certainly mechanicals are a top type collectible. Where and when did it all start — most likely prior to 1900 with a few scattered individuals who thought they were interesting toys. We know of no specific individual in this period who devoted his time to the mechanicals and we must go into the 1920's before we can really say with certainty that mechanical banks were actually being collected.

Two of these early collectors were a Mr. Evans, president of a bank in Boston, and Elmer Rand Jacobs, official of a bank in New York City. There were others, but these two men really formed pretty fair collections in their period of time. We can refer to them as pioneer collectors of the mechanicals.

In the 20's mechanical banks were still being made by such companies as J. & E. Stevens and Hubley Manufacturing Company, among others. They were also being manufactured in England, Germany, and another foreign country or two. It was in this period of the 20's that mechanical banks were reaching their end of popularity as a toy sold in stores and moving into the field of being a collector's item. They were referred to as a penny bank and this was basically what they were really intended for originally — to save pennies. Pennies, while still a somewhat usable coin with fair value in this period, were slowly moving into an area where less and less could be bought for a penny. So the end result was, over a period of time, less interest in saving them and, therefore, less interest in having a penny bank.

The early collectors in the 20's only had interest in cast iron mechanical banks, and as we moved into the 30's this still remained so. There was no interest in German tin mechanicals — no interest in English banks, even in cast iron. In other words, foreign made banks, cast iron or not, weren't desirable and had sort of a stigma about them. Tin mechanicals were frowned on with the exception of those made by Weeden Manufacturing Company in New Bedford, Mass.

So it was in the 30's that cast iron mechanicals were the 'in' thing and of American manufacture only. This was the time that the Sewing Machine and the Camera were considered to be true mechanicals, and even then were valued for their rarity. The great mechanical banks made by Bailey in lead just were not known about or simply ignored in the 20's and early 30's. The same can be said for some of the wonderful German tin banks and the fine mechanicals made in England.

As we go further into the 30's more and more collectors were getting into the field and these included a few doctors, several bank presidents, and of course, the late well known Walter

Chrysler. So after the mid-30's the banks were really getting on their way and became more and more popular and eagerly collected. A very avid collector in this period was Dr. Arthur E. Corby, and then there was James C. Jones and Andrew Emerine to name a few.

Added interest was the stimulation of Norman E. Sherwood when he entered the field of buying and selling mechanical banks. He caused quite a flurry in his time and helped to create a continually increased interest in the mechanicals. He sent out sales lists and did a fair amount of advertising, all to do with the mechanicals. He felt as the writer did that English banks deserved recognition and would place them in his lists. One of the first was the Dinah Bank, and at the time this was quite a discovery. Bailey's fine banks in lead started to show up, and as these made their inroads tin banks started to get their foot in the door. It was from this point on that the foreign made banks and the mechanicals in tin finally started to get off the round. The early undesirable aspect still hung on some, however, and particularly so with a few of the die-hard collectors. They would have some tin banks and an English bank or two, but with a certain reservation or reluctance.

All this business about a mechanical must be cast iron was a self defeating kind of thing. After all the greatest mechanical of all has very little cast iron in its makeup. This is the Freedman's Bank, and all the early collectors would have given their eye teeth to have had one. Ferguson probably turned up the first one in very poor and incomplete condition. He found it in a junk shop second-hand type store in Connecticut. Then Emerine turned one up in Mexico City and Haber found one, the only all original including paper labels, in Connecticut. The Freedman's alone helped lower the boom on the must be cast iron situation.

This doesn't get away from the fact that cast iron still remains the desirable, somewhat preferable material for a mechanical. The far greater number of the mechanicals are cast iron and it is Americana, and it is American ingenuity that created these great toy savings devices. So while the preference still remains with the cast iron, we today have the proper recognition of tin, wood, lead, and foreign made mechanical banks.

The hobby of collecting mechanical banks has a good solid foundation to stand on with many years of establishing it in this fashion. A lot of 'junk' items have been kept from the mechanical category, and in spite of a few here and there whose efforts would seem to be to add items to the group that don't belong there, we are confident that this will never be accepted by the vast majority of the collectors of mechanical banks. They would not want a well established hobby like this garbaged up just for the sake of adding to the number of mechanicals.

A Great Catalog

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1977

In collecting mechanical banks one usually sets certain goals as one moves along. That is to say, it may be a certain bank or some related item that fits into the collecting of mechanical banks. The writer has always had a great interest in old catalogs showing mechanical banks as they are a great source of factual background information. The cream of old catalogs showing mechanical banks are those issued by the manufacturers themselves, and these are very hard to come by. So, in any case, over the years one of the writer's goals was to find a Rex or Kyser & Rex Catalog. They were the Philadelphia concern which was active in the manufacture of mechanical banks in the 1890 period. They made some of the great mechanicals and stills and turned out a particularly well cast finely made product in cast iron. Their banks, as well as toys, were also particularly well painted and well designed. We could say there was more realism about their banks in general. For example, they

made the highly desirable Apple Bank and it looks like a real apple setting on three leaves. It's a fine smooth casting with excellent paint work.

Very recently the writer had the goal of a Rex catalog realized through the good help of Bob McCumber of Glastonbury, Conn. Bob is very active in the field of collecting and dealing in mechanical banks, as well as stills, and this activity led him into the Rex catalog, which he was kind enough to pass along to the writer.

It is simply a wonderful catalog and the first the writer has ever seen with the banks pictured in color. The catalog is dated June 1, 1889, and Figure 1, in reduced size, shows the cover which is self explanatory. Colors of the cover are blue and silver with black lettering.

Figure 1 shows pages 2 and 3 — page 2 is self explanatory, Preface "Note", of the Alfred C. Rex & Co. Catalog, while page 3 shows in brilliant color the rare and very desirable Motor Bank, one of the really great mechanical banks. This proves, of course, that Rex made the Motor Bank, and it is pictured in colors of green, red and yellow.

Figure 2 shows pages 4 and 5 — page 4 with one of the greatest and most desirable of all the mechanicals, the Merry-Go-Round Bank. In brilliant colors the bank is shown in blue, red, yellow and green. Here again this proves the Merry-Go-Round as a Rex product.

Page 5 pictures the Globe Savings Fund Bank in yellow, red and blue. This is one of the very fine handsome still banks in a building form. It has a combination front door lock which when opened rings a bell. It also allows a person to press a small lever and a secret drawer comes out. It's a real nice good looking bank.

Page 6 shows the Organ Bank (Boy and Girl) in colors of browns, red and yellow — page 7, the Organ Bank (Monkey) in the same colors. Page 8, the Organ Bank (Miniature) also same coloring, red brown and yellow. Uncle Tom is pictured in brown on page 9.

There are a total of 34 pages to the catalog. Fine still banks are shown such as the Pug Dog and the Kneeling Camel — some fine safe type banks such as the series of the Roller Safe, Sport Safe, Young America, and so on. Some good toys are shown including the rare Aunt Dinah Chariot and the Monkey Chime.

We can only say the Rex catalog is a great find on the part of Bob McCumber and thus another one of the writer's goals has been attained.

Witch Fortune Teller Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1977

In a past article we mentioned the fact that battery operated mechanical banks are in the modern group of the mechanicals, most all being manufactured after 1935. There is at least one exception to this, however, the Wireless Bank made prior to 1935 and classed in the old or antique group of the mechanicals.

There are some 40 odd modern battery operated mechanicals and to the best of our knowledge so far they were all made after World War II, probably starting around 1948 or so. They are by far mainly a Japanese product and unfortunately very few have the date of manufacture on the bank, or the box for that matter if such be the case. We are still not sure as to which of the banks was the first to be made. We can, however, place certain ones in the 50's and in the 60's, and there are a few that are dated.

Since becoming a collector's item, interest in the battery operated mechanicals has grown by leaps and bounds, and this interest only started a few years ago. Naturally one of the main questions

asked of the writer with respect to the battery banks is which one is the most important and desirable. There is no doubt in the writer's mind as to the answer to this question — the Witch Fortune Teller Bank just has to be the top bank, as is the Freedman's Bank in the antique category.

The Witch has a lot going for her, appearance (see picture) — great action — and she is a scarce bank to come by. Her entire outfit is black and all piping is red. The crystal ball in her left hand is white held in a red cloth. Her pearls are natural and her hair is white. Her face and hands are a yellowish, very light green color. She has bright red lips and fingernails. Her high arched eyebrows are black, as are her long eyelashes. Under her eyebrows there is tinting of purple and her high cheek bones are lightly tinted red. The metal base is an attractive maroon red.

To operate the bank, the front edge of her robe is lifted exposing a raised coin slot. When a coin is inserted in the slot, the following action takes place: She moves the crystal ball back and forth as she lifts and lowers her head as though looking into the ball. This action is repeated several times. She then lifts her right hand, as well as her head, looking straight ahead. She nods her head several times and her red eyes flash off and on twice. The right hand is then lowered and a fortune card slides from her hand. A really great action bank and most attractive from an appearance standpoint. There is a provided place for the fortune cards in the back of her right shoulder. This is covered by her hood and, like the coin slot, is well concealed and not obvious. A really wonderful, clever bank — well made, well designed, and excellent action. As a matter of fact, it is one of the greatest action banks ever made in either category, old (antique) or modern.

The Hillman Coin Target Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1977

A really unusual mechanical bank is our choice as No. 269 in the numerical classification. It is the only one the writer knows of in a collection, it comes under the category of a new find, and, of course, it belongs further up in the listing at this point in time. The bank is the Hillman Coin Target Bank, and it is not only unusual, but impressive as to size, measuring 15 inches long, 7 inches wide, and 10 inches high. That's some size mechanical bank.

The bank is made of oak, cast iron and glass. It was manufactured by M. Siersdorfer & Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The name of the bank and the manufacturer is cast in raised letters on the end cast iron section that holds the pistol in place. On the wood base just under the pistol there is a metal plate inscribed: M. SIERSDORFER & CO. MFR'S., CINCINNATI, O. PAT. APL'D. FOR. On the other end there is a box like container made of cast iron and beveled glass. Two pieces of glass inside partition this section into three compartments. There is a lever in the back side, and when turned the bottom of the three sections open so coins can drop into the sectional drawer coin container in the base. This drawer opens from the end under the box like container.

There is an enclosed target on the face of the box like container. A large slot in the middle is #1, and smaller slots on each side are #2 and #3. The half glass and half cast iron section between the pistol and the target serves two purposes — it keeps the coins from flying all over the place on misses, and it has a long slot in the bottom so misses are deposited in a large section of the drawer coin container.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed in the provided slot section on the pistol. The hammer of the pistol is pulled back for firing, aim is taken for one of the target slots, and the trigger pulled, shooting the coin to the target.

The bank is pictured and described in an 1895-96 catalog of Samuel Nafew & Company of New York and Chicago. This company handled coin gambling devices and used to reward the operator with drinks, cigars or money. The Coin Target Bank was utilized by the Nafew Company as a gambling device, rather than a bank for saving money. A misprint in their catalog lists it as the 'Coin Target Blank' 'Hit the Bull's Eye for a Cigar'. Below the picture of the bank appears the following:

'Place your coin in the pistol, take aim and shoot. If it goes through one of the three openings you will be rewarded according to number of cigars called for on the prize card which we furnish with each machine. Price \$9.00 each.'

So here we have a bank that served the double purpose as a gaming or gambling machine.

The background of the company that made the bank has a certain interest and we are indebted to the Cincinnati Historical Society for the following information:

M. Siersdorfer & Company appears in the Cincinnati directory for the first time in 1890 as patent specialty manufacturers at 130 West Pearl Street. The firm was made up of Michael Siersdorfer and Isaac Kinsey. The firm broke up or went out of business in late 1890 or early 1891, became in 1891 Kinsey & Siersdorfer at 217 West Fourth Street. Then in 1893-94 M. Siersdorfer & Company re-appears at 39½ East Fifth Street, again as manufacturers of patented specialties. The firm again dissolved or went on the rocks in late 1894 or 95, because from 1895 on M. Siersdorfer is listed as an agent for siphons, and there is no listing of the firm after 1894.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of Ed Mosler and is in all original condition and operates properly. It is an imposing unusual piece and even though it was used here and there as a chance gaming device, there is no question as to its being a bank as it so says right on the piece itself.

Mechanical Bank Ramblings

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1978

Well its been some time since we have gotten up to date on recent and near recent activity in the field of mechanical banks. So at this point we are going to become more current with some of the interesting things that have been happening.

For one thing we still hear how hard it is to find mechanical banks and collectors complaining that "they just aren't around any more." This sure wasn't the case at the recent toy affair held in the International Hotel ballroom, Kennedy Airport. The place was packed with both exhibitors and collectors, and a lot of business was being done in buying, selling and trading. There really were a lot of mechanical banks for sale throughout the place, and such dealers as John Haley from England and Bob McCumber had some fine mechanicals for sale. John had a wide range from somewhat common to rare in the bank line and some fine toys, particularly in the Mickey Mouse category. Frank Whitson, as well as Lloyd Ralston, had excellent displays of banks and toys, and the same can be said for Joe Olimpio, Jim Maxwell, and Mark Suozzi. We certainly do not intend to leave anyone out, but we can't cover everyone in the show, sufficient to say there were others with mechanical banks, so there wasn't any lack of banks at the International Hotel show in both mechanicals and stills.

There were good to fine toys in a wide range of both tin and cast iron. In the battery operated category John O'Connor really had an outstanding display, most of which were in the original boxes. And, of course, the Sadagursky's and Jean Pacente had their usual quality displays,

including some battery operated toys. Battery operated banks were also on tap here and there, and Sid Lehrer had his usual interesting display of toys and unusual items. So much for the International show at this time.

A little while back Steve Steckbeck came up with a Winner Savings Bank in real fine condition. This is a tough tin bank to come by and not many are around. Then at the recent Mechanical Bank Club convention Oliver Clark obtained a Giant In Tower (a tough one), Lion Hunter, Dentist, and a Cupola bank. That's quite a haul in a couple of days time. Oliver, by the way, has a new weekly TV series. 'We've Got Each Other', and one of the recent segments had to do with finding a rare mechanical bank and selling it for quite a sum of money. If you didn't catch the program first time around perhaps it will be repeated.

Al Davidson obtained a nice Watch Dog Savings Bank, and shortly after another one turned up. Believe it or not out of four known Watch Dog Banks, there are three varieties. Three of the banks have the same type dog as shown in the recent Hobbies article (June 1977), and the other one has the larger dog.

Bob McCumber is certainly to be congratulated. He recently obtained a fine all original Sewing Machine Bank. It has the name American Bank in the desirable raised letters and excellent paint with stenciling in fine condition. Following right on the heels of this rare acquisition would you believe it he has found a Target Bank, all original with no repairs or missing parts and in good paint. This makes the fourth one known to exist and the second that is all complete. The patent date of March 20, 1877 is inscribed on the bottom plate, so this bank is now in the 100 year category. Inside Bob's bank the front plate with the name thereon has inscribed 'PATd APPLD FOR'. It is of interest and possibly unique with the Target Bank to have an inscription inside the bank as to a patent being applied for and then on the base plate date of the patent after issue. The writer knows of no other bank with this double type of wording.

Then to sort of wind things up for now, there is a Flip The Frog Bank floating around (second one known), an African Native Bank, and a possible new find, the Automatic Savings Bank. All these banks are tin and when we have more information and the circumstances surrounding the three banks we will pass it along.

Shown is the cover of the important Alfred C. Rex Company catalog inadvertently omitted from the October 1977 article.

Three Rare Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1978

The intrigue and the unusual circumstances that occur when one is involved in collecting mechanical banks certainly add a lot of interest and color to the hobby. A present example: who would ever think of finding three different rare banks at one time in one place, not in a collection, and right in New York City. Well that's what Grover Van Dexter has done. He and his partner, Yoji Morimoto, have Second Childhood in West Greenwich Village. This is a very nice well kept antique toy shop — a pleasant place to go for the collector of antique toys. Van certainly deserves credit for finding these three unusual tin mechanicals, and to top it off one of them is a new find.

The banks are all in nice condition and they are the African Native, Flip The Frog, and the Automatic Savings Bank. At this point in writing they are up for sale and when this appears in the February issue they will have been sold to one or more collectors — each is for bid sale individually.

The Automatic Savings Bank, a new find, is in pristine condition with bright coloring. The top and back are red, the strong man has red trousers with yellow trim, a striped red and yellow shirt, and leopard skin in yellow with black spots. He has natural skin color on face, arms and legs. He wears white shoes trimmed in red, and his red fez is worn on gray color hair. His wrist straps are black and red.

The strong man is holding the small cartoon like figure by his hair. This small figure wears a black sailor type outfit with white shirt. Windows in back of the figures show yellow and green trees in the distance. This background represents a room and has a red floor or carpet with blue walls. The small figure stands on a yellow base or platform. The name 'Automatic Savings Bank' is in white. There are window decorations on the sides of the bank showing a castle and colors in green, yellow, blue, black, and white.

By the strong man's left foot is a double 'S' insignia and 'Made in Germany'. Also 'Made in Germany' is stamped on the back of the bank. For action the lever on the left side is depressed — the strong man moves from the waist to his left and lifts the sailor type figure by his hair. The figure's head lifts first, then his body, as though stretching his neck. The coin slot is exposed for insertion of coins as the strong man moves left. This part of the action is comparable to that of the Saluting Sailor.

Flip The Frog, to the best of the writer's knowledge, is the second one known to exist. It is in nice original condition with good bright colors. The background of the front is pale blue, Flip has green trousers, black jacket, white shirt and red tie. The green 'Cash Can' to his right has the lettering in black. The back of the bank is all red, as is the semi-circular track on the front where the coin travels. The name 'Flip The Frog' is on the front top and at the bottom appears 'Flip The Frog Money Box,' both in black lettering. On the lower left front is the wording 'Made in Germany.'

To operate Flip properly it is necessary to use the large size English penny. This is placed by his raised left leg. The lever is depressed and Flip's left leg lowers sliding the coin into position. He opens his mouth exposing a large red tongue and he lifts the lid of the cash can. On releasing the lever with a snap the left leg kicks up causing the coin to travel in the track over Flip's head on into the cash can and moving parts return to their respective positions. This is very good action with the coin taking part in the action, similar to that of the Monkey & Parrot.

The African Native Bank is once again, to the best of the writer's knowledge, the second example known to exist. It's in fine bright condition with colors as follows: The over-size face is brown with large red lips and prominent white teeth. The eyes are white, yellow and black. The small body has a white shirt, blue shorts, red strap, red ankle bracelets, and yellow wrist bracelets. The earrings are also yellow. The curly hair is brown and the large tongue is red. The rest of the bank, including the rear box section, is red. 'Germany' is stamped on the back of the rear box section.

To operate the Native the lever on left is pressed down. This causes the mouth to open and the large tongue to protrude. The coin is placed on the tongue, the lever released, and the tongue recedes with the coin into the bank. The action here is the same as that of the British Lion.

Once again Van is to be congratulated on the unusual circumstance of finding these three rare tin banks at one time. They are circa 1920's and were made primarily for the English trade. The Automatic Savings Bank, Figure 1, is No. 270 in the numerical classification. Flip The Frog, Figure 2, is No. 271, and the African Native, Figure 3, is No. 272. The Automatic Savings Bank is pictured with the lever depressed and the coin slot exposed for receipt of coins.

Getting Up To Date

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1978

There's been some activity in the rarer banks recently that deserves recognition, and this is as good a time as any to bring our readers up to date on at least a portion of this activity while it is still in the category of news. This along with some other news.

Oliver Clark, for example, struck again and this time with a gem of a bank, the Chinaman In Boat. This is not a previously unknown example, but rather the one from the collection of the late Ed Richards. It is an extra nice example of this rare bank, all original and in fine paint condition. The writer remembers the bank very well since he saw it the night of the day it came into Ed Richard's possession. Well, in any case, there is no doubt that Oliver has made a really great addition to his collection, and mechanicals of the caliber of the Chinaman In Boat just don't come on the market that often.

Ed Mosler comes into the picture with the acquisition of the Snake And Frog In Pond, and is this a tough bank! It is the only one to the writer's knowledge that has turned up in the past 30 to 35 years. For all this time only two examples of the Snake And Frog have been known to exist — one in pristine mint condition and the other fair to good shape. The mint condition one was in the late Emerine collection and the fair condition example in the late Meyer's collection. There is no question as to this being one of the great tin mechanicals. It is really with it where action is concerned, the coin taking part in the action, and the subject matter is tops. So now we have three known examples of this rare bank and Ed is to be congratulated on this fine addition to his collection. By the way, condition wise the bank is in very nice shape. It is all original and would rank right between the other two.

Not rare, but of interest, is a mint condition example of the Monkey With Tray (Tin) with wording (a poem) on the top of the base. The poem is as follows:

**Place a coin upon my plate,
Gently press my tail — then wait,
Up will go my hands you see,
And that coin goes inside me.**

This is an additional desirable factor for the bank and most certainly adds a degree of interest. The poem is separated into two lines on each side of the top to the left and right of the figure of the monkey.

Now to Brian Feltus of Maynard, Massachusetts, and an exceptionally interesting find of Brian's. This has to do with an original Weeden's dovetail wooden box 4-3/4 inches wide by 7-3/4 inches long by 4-1/2 inches high made to hold one of their mechanical banks, the Plantation Savings Bank. The original paper label is on the end of the box and it is 4 inches square. This label is where the great interest lies with the information printed thereon. At the top of the label in large letters appears 'Weeden Manufacturing Company', and under this 'Manufacturers Of'. The label now divides into three parts across where printing is concerned. In the center is a picture of a small steam engine marked 'Pat. May 19, 1885' and the word 'Nickel' appears under this. On the right is the following: 'Toy Steam Engines, Toy Steam Locomotives, Village Blacksmith, Machine Shop and other toys designed to run with our engines.' On the left and of importance to anyone interested in mechanical banks is printed this revealing information: 'Novel line of Performing Savings Banks representing a Plantation Dance, Japanese Ball Tossing, Ding Dong Bell, Jack Horner, Village Schoolmaster, and others.' So we now have evidence of a possible Jack Horner mechanical bank

and a Village Schoolmaster mechanical bank. All we can say is that is the way the Japanese Ball Tosser started years ago, with mention on a label, then a catalog picture, lots of searching, and finally an example of this great mechanical bank.

Well we are off the ground so far as label information from the manufacturer with respect to a Jack Horner Bank and a Village Schoolmaster Bank. The writer has never seen either bank pictured in any old catalogs, so let's hope this next step can materialize with further proof these two banks were actually manufactured.

The writer has never heard of a Jack Horner mechanical, but over the years he has heard rumors of a Schoolmaster Bank, even a description of a teacher spanking a pupil with a rule or stick. Time will tell and meantime we certainly are indebted to Brian for the information on this very interesting find.

A New Find and Three Rare Banks Conclusion

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1978

Once again it affords considerable pleasure to pass the word along about a new find in an old mechanical bank, and this time it is an American made item — most recent new finds have been of foreign manufacture, mainly German. It is nice to have an American made mechanical put in an appearance as a new find. This bank, like most of the recent finds, is made of tin, and the name 'Savings Bank' appears on the front as per photo. For more definitive reasons, we are naming the bank 'Fortune-Horse Race Savings Bank'. The dual name covers the dual purpose of the spinning dial. It is a rather small bank, 3-1/4 inches long, 2-1/8 inches wide, and 5/8 inches deep. It is No. 273 in the numerical classification.

The bank was patented October 5, 1897, by Arthur R. Clarke, Chicago, Ill., assignor of three-fourths to Emma Allardyce and Victor Dumont, both Chicago, Ill. The patent in one part reads as follows:

"The combination with a casing, of a wheel or disk pivotally secured therein and exposed to view, a spring-actuated lever pivotally secured in said casting and having an arm or extension, the free end of which is adapted to contact with the wheel, a sliding bar extending through the casing near said lever and having means to secure a coin thereon to engage the lever as the bar is pushed inwardly, substantially as described."

This covers the important phase of the mechanism of the bank and its operation of the dial on insertion of a coin. It was manufactured by Norton Bros., Chicago. This appears on the front bottom edge in small black letters.

The bank is an all over yellow with the name, patent date, and decorations in black. The spinning white dial has six numbered black horses thereon in two red, two white, and two blue sections. The alphabet is in black letters counter-clockwise on the dial. The back of the bank, yellow with all black lettering, has the alphabet with a different fortune after each letter. For example, 'A. I see a gleaming fortune shine. B. You are going on a long journey. C. A strange experience awaits you. D. Your letter shows a lucky shine.' The alphabet with its fortunes takes up the entire back of the bank.

To operate the bank, a coin is inserted in the slot in the bottom end. The coin causes the levers and the spring mechanism to spin the wheel rapidly counter-clockwise. Whatever letter and numbered section stops at the pointer wins the race and gets the fortune.

Why hasn't one of these banks turned up before now would be a natural question. Well, it's

anybody's guess, but with all the active collecting of mechanicals that has been going on for many years now, it is surprising that an example of this bank did not turn up sooner. But that's the way it goes and that's where part of the interest lies.

The bank is the most recent addition to Ed Mosler's fine collection, and he is certainly to be congratulated on the acquisition of this interesting small mechanical. By the way, the bank pulls apart for removal of coins. It is all original and in nice shape.

Well, the three rare tin banks from Second Childhood each found a separate home. The Automatic Savings Bank is in Steve Steckbeck's collection in Fort Wayne, Ind. — Flip The Frog in Ed Mosler's collection in New York City — and the African Native is now in the writer's collection. Congratulations to Steve and Ed, and the writer is very pleased with his African Native. By the way, it bears mention that the February 1978 article on these banks pictures the Automatic Savings Bank before the action, and not after as stated in the last sentence of the text. A minor error we would like to correct so there will be no confusion.

Santa Phone Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1978

Believe it or not we have another great find to report in a previously unknown battery operated mechanical bank. This, the Santa Phone Bank, like the Witch Fortune Teller, has really great action; and, of course, the subject matter, Santa Claus, is highly desirable. While the bank is in the category of a new find, it is not a new item just out for sale. The original box the bank was found in shows evidence of some age, and the bank itself, while in new mint condition, is not new in appearance per se. This, then, like many of the battery operated toys and banks, will be difficult to pin down to the exact year in which it was made. There are no dates or patent numbers on the box or the bank to help ascertain its age. Sufficient to say at this time it is in the modern group of the mechanicals (after 1935) and likely made in the 1950's to early 1960's. It is of Japanese manufacture.

The bank consists of Santa Claus seated at a desk holding a pen in his right hand and telephone in his left. Attached to this unit by wiring is another unit representing a dial type pay phone. Under each of the ten holes in the dial appears a single letter, the combination of which spell 'SANTA CLAUS' in large red capital letters. On the front top of the phone box appears in white capital lettering 'DEPOSIT A PENNY TO CALL SANTA PLACE YOUR CHRISTMAS ORDER'. On the left side of the box, also in white capital letters, is 'SAVE YOUR PENNY FOR CHRISTMAS CHEER'. On the desk, in addition to the telephone, there is a standing name plate, a paper Christmas card, and representations of note paper with writing thereon, this under the pen held by Santa.

The colors of the bank are as follows: The pay phone unit is all red with a white knob on the front coin trap and white under dial circle. Santa wears a fine heavy cloth red-maroon velvet suit and hat with white fur cuffs, hat trim, and tassel. His face is typical Santa Claus with high coloring and white beard and mustache. The phone is red and the pen is blue. The paper Christmas card is white with holly trim, the desk is silver with white and gray outlining of panels, the loop decoration is in red and green. On the left side of the desk Santa's bag is shown with various toys in red, green, black, white, yellow and brown. On the right side of the desk a bright green Christmas tree appears trimmed with ornaments and candy canes in red, white and yellow. His chair has green sides and a green cloth back. A white base completes the coloring of a most attractive bank. The bank by the

way, is mainly metal, tin, with a couple of plastic parts, the receiver on the pay phone and the phone Santa uses. And, of course, Santa's cloth clothing and cotton beard.

To operate the bank, two batteries must be inserted in the provided section on the underside of the desk. The receiver on the pay phone is then lifted from the hook and a coin is placed in the provided top section slot — the coin stays in place with the hook in the up position. The letters of Santa Claus are then dialed on the pay phone. As this is being done, the phone on Santa's desk rings and he lifts the receiver to his left ear. He then moves his head back and forward and moves his right hand as though writing. As the phone rings the name plate on the desk lights up and the name 'KRIS KRINGLE' appears. Also the paper card lights up and 'MERRY XMAS' appears on the card. The action as described takes place for a timed period and Santa then places the receiver on the phone and the mechanism stops automatically. When the receiver on the pay phone is placed on the hook, the coin drops inside the unit. A really great modern category mechanical bank with wonderful action. The bank will not operate unless a coin is used as described.

Larry Eisenstein of Jackson Heights, New York, found this bank in the original box under unusual circumstances in the 1977 Christmas period. He deserves due recognition for this unique interesting find and the timing couldn't have been more appropriate.

Pattern Recasts — Part I

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1978

Some years ago original patterns of certain mechanical banks came on the market and they were sold to a variety of individuals in limited quantities. These patterns for the most part were assembled into complete banks. The unfortunate part being that some of them went into the hands of persons who misused them. That is to say, they cast banks from the patterns and sold them as original mechanical banks. In some cases, as with the Harlequin, they were sold as so-called 'second casting', a worthless designation. It bears mention that this activity is still going on today and persons involved have gotten into rusting parts, antiquing paint, and so on to add legitimacy to their recast banks. The mechanicals that are cast from the patterns are much more difficult to identify than those cast from the banks themselves, and this is where the rub lies since many collectors have been fooled by these pattern cast banks.

Let's take a moment to explain that a bank cast from a pattern comes out to size properly as an original bank that was made years ago from the same pattern. Also, a smoother casting is obtained where a pattern is used. This having to do, of course, with a number of factors involving the sand used and so on. These pattern recast banks then, where paint is antiqued and other things done, do make it difficult for the average collector, and even some of the more experienced advanced collectors, to identify them for what they are — a recast bank.

This pattern situation is fortunately not a wide spread thing, just certain Stevens banks. Unfortunately, however, including some common banks, there are some rare banks involved such as the Harlequin, North Pole, Billy Goat Bank, Perfection Registering, Shoot The Chutes and a number of others.

All this came about in this fashion. Prior to World War II, J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut had many of their original patterns stored in a certain building used for this purpose. After all, they made mechanical banks until the late 1920's, so there was still activity in using the patterns till the near 1930's. Over the years, starting in the 1870's as a mechanical bank was taken out of production, the patterns were stored in the building that served this purpose. There

was always the chance that any certain bank might go back into production again for one reason or the other. Then, too, they even had some wooden mechanical bank patterns stored in another building. As explanation, many mechanical banks in the earlier days were first carved in wood, then made in lead, then into brass and master patterns in bronze. Some mechanical banks existed there, stored away, in all these stages. Of course, the bronze patterns are the ones we are dealing with presently. In any case, these patterns stayed pretty much untouched over a number of years from the late 1920's on, and then along came World War II and the picture changed. A lot of patterns were sold and melted up for their metal content. A number, however, escaped this fate, and these are the ones to be concerned about in the cases where they have been misused.

Now to another facet of this rather involved situation. In addition to the patterns at Stevens, many original mechanical bank cast iron parts were on hand there and just sat around for years in barrels and other containers. There wasn't any great order or continuity to it. In any case, a few years after World War II is when some of the cast iron parts really started getting around, along with the remaining patterns. There were in some instances complete cast iron parts of a mechanical bank, so that, as with the patterns, they could be assembled into a complete bank. In the main, however, the original cast iron parts were of various banks and not complete banks. For example, prior to World War II, there were a few complete Buster Brown sleds found for the Shoot The Chute Bank. These were, of course, authentic complete sleds and original in all parts and assembled as a unit. This was an exception, not the rule, as, to repeat, most were original cast iron parts of various different banks, not assembled and more or less scattered around the buildings of the plant. Many of these parts eventually wound up in the hands of legitimate repair service individuals and they were not abused — they were properly used (and are still being so) to repair banks where original parts could be used to replace broken or missing parts of original banks.

Pattern Recasts — Part II

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1978

Now we go to another complicated phase surrounding the patterns and their misuse. This has to do with a bank recast from a pattern and then certain original parts used to make the bank. For example, a side of a bank, or a figure, or part of a figure would be an original part made by Stevens. This was and can be combined with the recast pattern parts to try to add to the legitimacy of a pattern recast bank. What does this mean — not very much — it is not an original bank made by Stevens in any sense of the word. It is merely an effort on the part of certain individuals to add some degree of legitimacy to their activities in trying to fool collectors and dealers alike.

So at this point we have covered patterns of a limited number of different Stevens banks — banks cast from these patterns in recent times, as well as some years ago — and original cast iron parts combined with the pattern recast parts. The bronze master patterns in the hands of reliable collectors are for the most part assembled into the respective bank, polished and lacquered for display purposes. Some have been simply assembled into a bank, but left in a state of minor cleaning. In any case, please understand that the patterns under discussion exist in duplications. That is to say, there is more than one pattern of the Harlequin Bank in existence. There are several original patterns of the Bill E. Grin Bank, for example. This is how it worked out that unfortunately some of the patterns got into the hands of the wrong people. Most collectors of mechanical banks are not interested in collecting patterns. They want the original production bank, and nothing else. So when the patterns were being offered around there was very limited interest among the

collectors. Transversely, there was interest on the part of anyone who planned to misuse them. They saw a possible bonanza in their hands and so took advantage of the situation.

Naturally the cast iron banks made from the patterns had to be painted. Initially these were offered as being in mint paint condition. Then, as time went on, they were painted to look old, or in other words, the paint was antiqued. There is no question that some collectors were fooled by these banks some years ago and have been fooled in recent times. It does take experience and certain expertise to judge these banks for what they are, and particularly difficult are the North Pole, Billy Goat Bank, and the Perfection Registering. The painting of these banks is more easily faked to convey an old appearance.

Let's for a moment take a recent example of a Billy Goat Bank sent to the writer for authentication. It was not right and never assembled by Stevens. For one thing, the rivets did not have the proper markings as those made by the Stevens equipment. The paint was antiqued and not original Stevens paint. And the individual who had done this bank had slipped up on several other points as compared to a Stevens original. This bank comes to mind as an example simply because it is the most recent to come into the writer's hands. He has seen North Poles, Perfection Registerings, Harlequins, and Shoot The Chutes all in the same pattern recast category. It is a shame, but it exists, and that's the way it is.

It is meaningful to most mechanical bank collectors to know what they have in their respective collections. Many recasts, reproductions, and so on exist that in most cases are easily identifiable and have nothing to do with the present discussion of the pattern recasts. These are considerably more difficult to identify for what they are and it is important to bring this to the attention of all collectors of the mechanical. It is important in the case of a common bank, but it is even more important with respect to the rarer ones which can run into considerable sums of money.

There is no pat answer to this situation concerning the pattern recasts. There is no way to pass along information in detail so that a collector can judge for himself. It is fortunate that the patterns are in a limited number and that there are no more Stevens patterns around to turn up in the future.

Please understand there are recast banks other than pattern recasts that are difficult to judge for what they are. Mama Katzenjammer comes to mind for being one in this category. Actually there are more recasts of this bank in existence than originals.

Conventions & Harper Stills

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1978

Two club conventions have been held recently, the Antique Toy Collectors of America and the Still Bank Collectors Club. The toy group held their affair in Williamsburg, Virginia, and there was some pretty good action in toys. Outstanding toys for sale included a New York Sightseeing Bus by Kenton with cartoon figures, Mama Katzenjammer, Happy Holligan, and the others. There was also a nice Swan Chariot by Stevens, unusually enough with an original box. This is a very graceful pull toy with a swan that flaps its wings and a girl reclining in a shell to the rear of the swan. During the auction time of the convention a rather unique toy showed up. This was a tin automobile with a figure of Santa with a pack on his back. A nice toy, however, and after going to a pretty fair figure, it was bid back in by the owner. There were a variety of other toys at this affair, including Lehmann, penny toys, tin toys, and you could say just about something for everybody.

The still bank group met in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and this get-together brought forth a couple of surprises. For one thing, there were some nice mechanical banks there, and a small collection of

mechanicals changed hands. The banks in this collection, all in fine original condition, included William Tell, Eagle & Eaglets, Punch & Judy, Home Bank, Frog Lattice, Trick Dog, and Owl Turns Head. The Trick Savings Bank, Type I, with original label, was sold to a leading collector. There was a nice picture Gallery and good Clown On Globe. One of the better mechanicals, the Calamity Bank, was in nice original condition. Others were a Monkey And Parrot in the original box, an Organ Bank, Type I (Cat & Dog), regular Organ Bank (Monkey), and Hall's Liliput. That's a nice bunch of mechanicals to show up at a still bank gathering.

We would have to say that the two outstanding still banks sold at the affair were the Harper Policeman and Harper Mother Hubbard. These two stills are quite rare and desirable. There is probably only one other Policeman known to exist in a collection, and the Mother Hubbard is the only one known to exist to the best of the writer's knowledge. These two banks are the type that have the safe representation back and figures on the front. Technically the figures are, in each case, on the back of the safe; however, the figural part is always displayed to the front. As with other Harper figural safe type still banks, both the Policeman and the Mother Hubbard have in raised letters around the door representation 'COPYRIGHT BY J. M. HARPER', and underneath the door the date '1907'.

The figure of the Policeman is an early type of the period with the usual silver face and hands and blue uniform. The term 'usual silver face' is indicative of the Harper banks. The figure of the policeman extends well above the safe and is centered. The bank is in very nice condition.

The figure of Mother Hubbard is represented as a portly type woman, usual silver face, and she is to the right of the bank and also extends above the top of the safe. The dog is to her right and he is done in gold. The name 'Mother Hubbard' appears in raised letters across and under the figure. This bank too is in nice original condition.

In any case, these two banks exchanged hands at the convention, and within a few days they again exchanged hands. They were initially purchased (in the first exchange) from a collector by a dealer.

Of interest at this point are the other Harper safe type banks. Red Riding Hood is the most desirable of the group and is depicted with the red cape and the wolf. Then there is the Stork. The stork's neck curves up extending over the safe, and in his bill he holds the baby in the accepted fashion. Another is the Bird's Nest, and this is as the name implies. Still another is the Carpenter. Then we have the outstanding Santa Claus. Santa is on the right front side of the safe and just his head and pack extend up over the top. His pack is over his right shoulder and to the left front side of the safe. Santa has silver face, pack, and hands. His suit and cap are red. Washington, and then Lee round up the safe type Harper banks that, to the best of the writer's knowledge, are known to exist. There may be others of the safe type that remain as yet undiscovered — time will tell.

We must point out at this time that Harper, who made some very interesting unusual still banks, did not just make the unique safe type figurals. They made other very exceptional stills, including what could be the most desirable and rarest of all stills, the Board Of Trade. This depicts a bull and bear on their hind legs with their forelegs on a bag of grain located between them. A wonderful still bank. Also, the great Billy Possum was made by Harper, and this is a really interesting representation of a possum with his 'taters.

So much for now about Harper's stills, and more possibly in the future, and we will picture a few for our readers in the near offing.

Mechanical Bank News

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1978

Our intentions this month were to picture several of the Harper banks as discussed in last month's article. However, we feel that other important news about mechanical banks should be passed along while it is still in the news category. In other words, we like to keep our readers informed and up to date, and we can picture the Harper banks another time, possibly next month.

In any case, there's been a great deal of activity in the mechanical bank field of collecting and some great banks have turned up and passed into the hands of a number of collectors.

A recent auction in England offered a fine all original Snake And Frog In Pond (Tin) and Steve Steckbeck flew over, was the successful bidder, and brought back a very good addition to his collection. This has to be one of the outstanding tin mechanical banks. Right on top of this practically, both Lee Perelman and Wally Tudor added a Snake And Frog In Pond to their respective collections. It's hard to believe that a circumstance of this kind could happen — but it did! It seems an old toy store in England had five of these banks (this is the total number to the best of the writer's knowledge) show up when the store stock was being cleared out. Imagine, here is a bank that only two were known to exist, Emerine and Meyer each having one, Emerine in mint condition and Meyer in fair condition. And this was the way it was for over thirty years. Then, bango, at least five of them turn up right out of the blue. Another example of the unusual and interesting circumstances that occur in collecting mechanical banks.

The other two Snake And Frog Banks? Well we did not know or have the information at the time of the March 1978 article where we told of the acquisition by Ed Mosler of a Snake And Frog. That is one of the group, accounting for four of them. Then, as we understand it, an English collector has the fifth. So, as it stands now, we know of seven Snake And Frogs that exist in collections. There is no question that you have to hop on to something like this when it's available, it's been proven time and again. And don't be surprised if it's another thirty years or more before another Snake And Frog shows up.

Would you believe one of the great tin banks was just obtained by Bob McCumber — the Royal Trick Elephant in nice condition. This is a tough tin bank to come across. Also include a Wimbledon Bank in Bob's recent additions, and that's doing pretty well.

On the market recently was a Giant In Tower, Bear Bank (Tin), and a John Bull's Money Box. The Giant and John Bull are not in great shape; however, these are pretty hot banks. We do not as of this writing know of the disposal of these three banks.

Now we come to Al Davidson whose latest addition is the Clown Bank (Bust). This is an English cast iron mechanical that is very difficult to come by and Al is to be congratulated. It is all original and in pretty good paint condition, particularly for this bank. We might mention that Al was recently involved in a rather bad automobile accident and hospitalized for some time. We are pleased to report that he is on the mend now and coming along o.k.

That same question keeps popping up by individuals asking the writer — 'where can you find mechanical banks today'. Anyone ever try the Brimfield Flea Market in Brimfield, Massachusetts? Well, the writer finally went to the affair for the first time. In a way it's a mild form of insanity — mobs of people and 700 plus exhibitors. Everything is there from junk to antiques, but the main point is there were numbers of mechanical banks for sale. There really were a lot of mechanicals available. They were scattered around among the exhibitors and also concentrated with certain dealers. Showing fine displays of mechanicals were McCumber, Whitson, Suozzi, and Maxwell.

Also it bears mention that some fine still banks were on hand. So if you're trying to find mechanical banks go to Brimfield. It is held three times a year, Spring, Summer and Fall, and the dates are widely advertised.

Finally, the hottest news right now is an auction just held in Cogan Station, Pennsylvania, by the Roan Brothers. This was the sale of the very rare Jonah And Whale (Jonah Emerges). The bank was sold in a matter of minutes and went to a dealer. Numbers of dealers and collectors attended the sale just to bid on this rare bank. A part was missing from the front of the bank and there was a break in the coin base, but tremendous interest was involved in spite of these defects. This is one of the really rare desirable mechanicals to come on the market in some time and auctions do seem to be where the action is, not only where buying is concerned, but also where rare banks are available.

Four Fine Harper Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1978

In recent times we have mentioned that we would picture a Harper bank or two and we are doing so now. One very unusual feature of Harper banks should be pointed out at this time. They, in most cases the writer knows of, have the word 'copyright' imprinted or cast on each bank. This is a unique situation for any kind of a bank, still or mechanical, since if a protective measure was desired a patent was taken out, not a copyright. So this in itself sort of sets the Harper banks in a position all their own.

Now to the pictures and the four banks shown. In Figure 1, the Red Riding Hood is on the left and Board Of Trade on the right. Red Riding Hood is the most desirable of the safe type Harper banks and quite rare. The figures are on the back of the safe representation. Red Riding Hood has a red cape and outfit and other clothes in silver, the wolf a red mouth and silver eye. All the rest of the bank is black, including the wolf.

The Board Of Trade is probably the most desirable of all still banks. It has everything going for it, including the fact this is the only example known to exist to date. The name appears in gold on the front. The base is green, the bag silver, and the bull and bear are black with red mouths and silver eyes. The Harper name, word copyright, and date 1905 appear on the lower back of the base. The coin slot is in the back at the base of the bag. The casting of the bank is in excellent detail and extra finely done. A really great bank.

In Figure 2, the I Made Chicago Famous pig is on the left and Billy Possum on the right. The pig is an all over black with lettering in gold; his hooves and tip of nose are silver. Keep in mind that black and silver are typical of Harper banks. On the front side (shown) appear 'I MADE CHICAGO FAMOUS', and under this along his belly 'COPYRTD'. On the other side is 'CHICAGO HARDWARE CO.', and along the belly the date '1902'. This Harper bank has the additional interest of being an advertising item.

Finally, we have Billy Possum and he is black and silver with gold lettering and gold taters. The name appears on the front as shown. In the same position on the other side appears 'POSSUM & TATERS'. On the underside bottom edge is the wording 'J. M. HARPER COPYRIGHT 1909'. This bank is a great depiction of a possum with realistic detail. As with most Harper banks, it is a finely detailed casting.

There you have it for now — Harper banks are not easy to come by and they are among the most interesting of the stills. They offer a great challenge to the collector of still banks.

Battery Operated Mechanical Banks

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1978

In the modern category of the mechanical banks, 1935 to date, there is no doubt as to the battery operated type being outstanding both in action and desirability. They really qualify as a new type toy savings device. That is to say, it is not necessary to wind them for action, set them for action, or anything else. Batteries in place, they are always ready to perform, and some of the animation is rather spectacular.

Up to now we have gone into detail on four of the top five most important battery mechanicals. These are Globe Explorer (Hobbies, May 1977), the Witch Fortune Teller (Hobbies, November 1977), Santa Phone Bank (Hobbies, May 1978), and the Fishing Bears (Hobbies, November 1978). To wrap the mechanical battery banks up for a while, we are picturing seven of the particularly desirable ones, and none of these seven are easy to come by even though they have been made since 1948.

Figure 1 shows the hard to find Coca Cola Bank on the left, and the Clown Candy Vending Bank on the right. The Coca Cola Bank dispenses a small glass of coke for a penny and it is a bright red in color with white lettering. The Clown, for a penny, turns the crank and allows a measured amount of candy to slide down a chute into the operator's hand. Sufficient to say, it is a brightly multi-colored bank and most attractive with good action and eye appeal. When in operation the inside lights up, a nice touch.

Figure 2 shows the Organ Grinder And Monkey and Santa On The Roof. When a coin is inserted in the Organ Grinder Bank, the organ grinder turns the crank, music plays, and the monkey dances around. Another bright multi-colored bank with timed action. As to Santa, when a coin is inserted in the chimney, he moves his right hand up and down ringing the bell — he moves the toys in his left hand up and down, his eyes light up and his head goes from side to side. He is brightly clothed in red as Santa should be and the house is nicely lithographed.

Figure 3 shows, from left to right, the Taxi Cab Bank, Boy On Pony, and Uncle Sam Hat. The yellow cab runs around for a timed period when a coin is inserted in the slot. When a coin is placed in the front slot of the Boy On Pony, he rides the pony back and forth in a rocking motion for a timed period. His hat also moves back and forth on his head. This bank is also a brightly multi-colored toy and most attractive. The Uncle Sam Hat Bank is last, but not least. It, like the other banks described here, is not easy to come by. A coin is placed in the front provided slot — the hat starts to shake and a hand comes out of the top of the hat (the top rises), grabs the coin, and disappears inside the hat with the coin. Uncle Sam gets the money!

Well that's it for now about battery operated mechanicals. All those shown here are metal with the exception of the Uncle Sam Hat Bank and, of course, the clothes on Santa and the Organ Grinder.

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Toy Shows, Conventions, and Mickey Mouse

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1979

There has been a considerable amount of action in mechanical banks and toys in general in the last couple of months. The number one spot for this action was the International Hotel Toy Show at Kennedy Airport, September 24, 1978. This should be a must for all collectors of mechanical banks, cast iron toys, early and late tin toys, wind-up tin toys, comic toys, battery toys, and you name it toys. What a show this was — lots of mechanical banks by the number of exhibitors including Bob McCumber, Lloyd Ralston, Frank Whitson, Haley from England, Mark Suozzi, Joe Olimpio, and others. Fine tin toys and battery toys by the Sadagursky's and Jean Placente. John O'Connor had a great display of choice battery toys and Larry Eisenstein and several others had some nice battery operated. So if you like toys in the categories mentioned, this show is the place and make it a point to attend the next one. Would you believe Lloyd Ralston one of the top dealers in fine old toys, selling battery operated? How times have changed.

Right after this show, the next weekend in fact, September 29th – October 1st, the Mechanical

Bank Collectors of America held their convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Here again there were a lot of mechanical banks around, most of them for sale in numbers of rooms. There was quite a bit of selling action on Friday night and at the auction on Saturday morning. Some special hidden and trade deals were made, but in the main the great majority of the banks were simply for sale to the various members. There were also a few cast iron toys on hand and Jim Maxwell had a great Santa Auto in tin — a bright red car and most attractive. Sufficient to say there was a wide choice of mechanicals at this convention and quite a few stills with a scattering of toys.

Not too long after the above, October 22nd to be exact, another toy affair was held in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey. A mob of people attended this one which took place in a Veteran's Club. Lots of toy cars around at this show and some battery operated, tin wind-up, and so on. Not much in mechanical banks and a few cast iron toys. It was an interesting show and you really can't tell just what might turn up here in the way of toys. Try it — it's well advertised and the next one is in May of 79.

Coming up as of this writing is the Antique Toy Collectors of America convention in Allentown, Pennsylvania. It should be a good one and their conventions are well run affairs. Lots of toys usually available and lots of action. And that's what it's all about.

Along with these affairs there have been numbers of toy auctions and a few of them with mechanical banks. So keep your eye on the toy auctions for mechanicals — the auctions are becoming more and more the main source for toys and banks.

In closing we cannot neglect Mickey Mouse and the fact it is his 50th Birthday. What is probably the world's greatest cartoon character became 50 years old in November 1978. The writer is still of the opinion that the Mickey Mouse mechanical bank is most likely the greatest of all Mickey Mouse toys, this in spite of the high auction price of the tin Mickey Mouse Organ Grinder in England and the auction price in the United States of the Lionel Santa Hand Car (with Mickey Mouse in Santa's bag). There have been a number of the Organ Grinders turn up since the English auction, at least two were at the International Toy Show. In any case, there are two, possibly three, of the Mickey Mouse banks known to exist to date. It's a top, tough to find mechanical. For Mickey's birthday we are picturing this fine bank, Figure 1 front and Figure 2 back. The example pictured is in mint condition.

Rabbit In Cabbage - Frog On Rock

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1979

Two rather interesting and quite small mechanical banks are our choice at present to occupy No. 274 and No. 275 in the numerical classification. The Rabbit In Cabbage is No. 274 and the Frog On Rock No. 275.

These two banks were made by the same company, namely the Kilgore Manufacturing Company of Westerville, Ohio. Cap pistols were their main line of toys, however, during 1926 they introduced a series of four mechanical banks - an Owl bank in two types, a Frog, Rabbit, and the rare Turtle Bank. Of the four the Turtle was obviously made in very limited quantities, for one reason or another, as compared to the other three.

With respect to the four banks, we have an unusual circumstance - they were designed and modeled by a woman, M. Elizabeth Cook. In her time she was an artist and sculptress.

Each bank had its own individual name, the Frog On Rock was Jug-O-Rum; the Rabbit In Cabbage was Flop-Ears; the Owl, Blinky; and the Turtle, Pokey.

The banks were originally packed in small cardboard boxes and now and then one of them is found today in its original box. Each box, for each of the four banks, had a poem thereon. For example, the Rabbit In Cabbage box carries the following poem or verse:

**"Flop-Ears the Rabbit hops around
Lifting his ears for every sound
He sees Blinky the Owl, high in an Oak
And hears the Frog, Jug-O-Rum croak,
And wonders if Pokey, the Turtle, so slow,
Can catch up with him, if he hops real slow.
Flop-Ears the thoughtful Rabbit
Says 'Get The Saving Habit' "**

The Rabbit In Cabbage shown, Figure 1, is in mint condition. A coin placed in the slot in his back causes his ears to lift. Colors are a two tone green base and cream colored rabbit with brown accents. The eyes are red with black pupils. This bank was found in its original box.

The Frog On Rock, Figure 2, is also in mint condition. Press the small front lever and he opens his mouth to receive the coin. Colors are a good shade of green on the frog with orange on his webbed feet and under his mouth. His eyes are white outlined with black and black pupils. His lips are also outlined in black. The front rock formation is mottled red and brown.

Each bank has the same type nickel plated key locking coin trap.

A Unique Group

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1979

The time period in which a mechanical bank was made is of considerable importance. Fortunately many of the old or antique mechanicals (made prior to 1935) have patent dates right on the banks themselves. In other cases there are patented banks that show no dates or patent information, however, we have been able to locate the patent papers which cover them. In addition to this, there are old dated manufacturers and jobbers catalogs which picture or describe mechanical banks. There are other ways we can judge an old mechanical bank and place it with reasonable accuracy in its proper time period.

The modern category of the mechanicals (1935 to date) are not as yet so well defined as to their respective period of manufacture. As time goes on this factor becomes more and more important. At this point we are going to define a certain unusual group of the modern mechanicals that are becoming increasingly significant as a collector's item. These are the mechanical banks made in Germany and marked with the U.S. Zone designation. This is comparable to items made in Japan for a limited time and marked Made In Occupied Japan which are now desirable to collectors.

The designation U.S. Zone Germany appears to have started in late 1945 and was used for about three years until the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Fall of 1948. After that banks were marked Made In Western Germany. Another opinion places the U.S. Zone usage at about a year and a half. This based on the fact that many factories were destroyed during the war and most of them did not get started in production until late 1946 or early 1947. So for the record, any mechanical banks with the U.S. Zone designation would date in the time period of 1946-1948.

Pictured are some of the known U.S. Zone Germany tin mechanical banks. Figure 1 shows the

Elves Candy Vendor Bank on the left and the Telephone Booth Bank on the right. Each bank is brightly lithographed in excellent detail with colors of red, green, white, yellow, blue and brown. Inserting a coin in the top slot of the Elves Vendor causes the front drawer to spring open and a piece of candy is in the drawer. The Telephone Booth is shown after the operation with the boy in the operating square section in the center of the bank. When the lever is pulled down a telephone appears in the place where the boy is shown. A tray under the phone snaps forward and a coin is placed on this tray. When the top operating lever is pressed the tray snaps back into the bank, the boy appears, and a bell rings. Both tin banks are well made and quite attractive. 'Made In U.S. Zone Germany' is lithographed on the side of the Elves Bank and 'Made In Germany U.S. Zone' is lithographed on the back of the Telephone Bank.

Figure 2 shows the Frog And Bee Bank. Again excellent lithography in bright colors of green, red, white, gray, yellow, blue and brown. To operate, the frog is pulled down the ladder and snaps into position at the bottom. As this is done a tray springs forward at the top of the ladder. A bee is shown on this tray and that is where the coin is placed. The bottom lever is pressed and the frog springs up the ladder toward the bee on the tray. As the frog springs, the tray snaps inside the bank with the coin. 'Germany U.S. Zone' is inscribed on the bottom locking coin trap. Also lithographed on the bottom front of the bank appears 'Made In Western Germany' and 'D.B.G.M.'.

Figure 3 pictures the Dog House Bank in colors of red, brown, yellow, gray, green, blue, white and orange. To operate, a knob by the dog's face is pressed to the right causing the square center panel to move to the right and another face of the dog appears sticking out his tongue. This locks in this position and a coin is placed on the tongue. When the operating lever is pressed the tongue snaps inside the bank with the coin and the dog's other face returns to position as shown in the photo. On the side of the bank is the wording 'Made In Germany U.S. Zone' and the coin trap is stamped 'Germany U.S. Zone'.

In Figure 4 we picture the Cashier Bank which represents a bank teller or cashier at his window ready to receive the coin on his tray. The bank is shown set for the action. A coin is placed on the tray and the operating lever by the upright dog is pressed. The tray snaps into the bank with the coin. The cashier moves to the side and a window appears in his place. Brilliant colors are in red, blue, orange, green, white, black and brown. This bank also has 'Germany U.S. Zone' stamped on the coin trap, and lithographed on the left side of the bank 'Made In Germany U.S. Zone'. In addition, a 'Provisional Patent No. 10394' is shown.

Last, but not least, Figure 5 shows the quite desirable Mouse Trap Bank. On depressing the wire form operating lever the mouse in the opening disappears, replaced by a coin slot. A coin is deposited and the mouse reappears as the lever lifts automatically when released. Colors are tan, red, gray, green, brown and black. The locking coin trap is inscribed 'Germany U.S. Zone', the base is imprinted 'Made In U.S. Zone Germany' and 'D.G.M.'. The Mouse Trap is a rather small bank and most attractive.

There is another U.S. Zone mechanical (not pictured), the Soccer Bank, and in configuration it is like the Cashier Bank, Figure 4. The Soccer players appear on the front of the bank and one of the players kicks the coin, representing the ball, into the bank. This action takes place across the front of the bank. The coin trap on this bank is inscribed 'Germany U.S. Zone', and like the others it is a very colorful bank with similar colors to those described.

We wish to express our appreciation to fellow collector Ed Mosler, who has contacts in Europe, for his help in establishing the time period of the U.S. Zone markings.

A Santa and A Clown

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1979

It never ceases to amaze the writer how a battery operated mechanical bank will turn up that he has never heard of or seen before. It's happened again on the recent occasion of a visit to see Al Davidson and look over his fine collection of modern mechanical banks, 1935 to date. It seems that not too long ago a collector disposed of his modern mechanicals and Al obtained, among others, the two great banks shown — Santa At Desk, Figure 1, and the Clown At Desk, Figure 2.

The banks were obviously made by the same Japanese concern and this then would lead to the same manufacturer that made the Santa Phone Bank (HOBBIES, May 1978). Like the Santa Phone, the two banks under discussion would be in the time period of mid 1950's to early 1960's.

Santa At Desk, Figure 1, is a bright cheerful bank with colors as follows: The base holding the desk is green and the desk is gold with decorations in brown, blue, green and pink. On the left end of the desk is a green Christmas tree with red, white, blue and pink decorations. The right end of the desk has a brown teddy bear sitting on stacked gift boxes in a variety of colors. Santa wears a red velour or velvet outfit with white fur trim. His face is typical Santa with white beard and so on. His desk phone is red and a representation of a blue book is by the phone and is lettered in red 'CHILD PLACE'. The coin slot to the front of the desk has 'ONCE' in black and '10c' in large red numbers. By the phone there is a blue button with 'CALL BELL' underneath. There is also a blue button by the coin slot. So much for the colors.

To operate, a dime is placed in the slot where it stays in position. The call bell button is pressed and held down until the phone lights up and starts ringing. Santa lifts the phone to his ear and lowers his right hand with pencil to the desk. He moves his head back and forth as though talking and writing. After a timed period he returns to the position as shown in the photo. The blue button by the coin slot is then pressed and the coin drops into the provided receptacle. Unusual is the coin trap which is on the front of the desk and through which one can see the coins saved. This trap is spring loaded and when pressed back by the knob, coins are released.

The Clown At Desk, Figure 2, is also a bright, cheerful bank with the silver desk on a blue base. The desk has decorations in red, white and yellow. The clown wears a white hat with red polka dots and a red jacket with blue collar trimmed with white. He has a blue bow on each sleeve and wears a yellow tie. He has a typical clown face colored in white, blue, red and black. The phone is red and the desk top is similar to Santa's with the same call bell, coin slot, and so on.

The operation of the Clown At Desk is the same as Santa's with one exception. The clown's head does not move back and forth; his mouth moves as though talking on the phone. As with Santa, the coin trap is on the front of the desk and is the same type.

So we add two more very interesting battery operated mechanicals to the list of those known to exist. The battery group of the mechanical banks does offer some really great animation and interesting subject matter. They are very well designed toy savings devices and at the top in action of all the mechanical banks.

Toad On Stump

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1979

The J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut, can factually be referred to as the pioneer in the field of cast iron mechanical banks. Not only that, but they made more mechanicals

than anyone else and a greater variety of different types. These included a wide range of subject matter. That is to say, their mechanicals represented so many interesting actions of people, animals, and objects.

Stevens was very fortunate in having some of the top designers of mechanical banks in their organization. These included Frisbee, Hall, Bowen, and Bailey, to name a few. While, in the main, they designed all banks as children's toys for savings, nevertheless, numbers of their mechanicals have political overtones, some are historical, and some racial. Political banks include the Tammany, as well as the Bread Winners Bank with its additional racial aspect. A couple of other anti or racial banks are the Bismark Pig and the Reclining Chinaman. Several historicals include Teddy And The Bear, World's Fair, Called Out, North Pole, and U.S. And Spain. These mechanical banks with a message on the part of the designer are in the minority and a far greater number were designed in a lighter vein. Banks in the lighter mood included as subject matter play, work, sports, comics, nursery rhymes, circus, and animals in a great variety of actions from somewhat complex to rather simple.

As we reach No. 276 in the numerical classification, we have chosen a most attractive simple action bank of Stevens manufacture. This is the Toad On Stump and, like all Stevens banks, it is well designed, a fine smooth casting, and well decorated.

The bank shown is in excellent original condition painted as follows: Toad is a dark green with brown around the white and black eyes. The inside of his lower jaw is red and the underside is a cream color. The tree stump is brown with green and gold decorations of plant life. On the bottom side of the stump there is a black turtle with yellow markings on his shell. The perforated base plate of the bank is the same color brown as the stump. A conventional Stevens Feb 2 1875 round coin trap is in the base plate. By the toad's left hind leg there is a section of tan on the stump, the same tan is also on a small section just under the toad's mouth. All in all, a bank with a pleasing realistic appearance.

To operate, a small lever by the right hind leg is pressed down. The mouth opens and coins are deposited therein. On release of lever the mouth closes.

The bank is 2-7/8 inches high. Width at the base is 3-5/8 inches and depth at base is 4 inches.

Organ Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1979

The May 1979 article mentioned that animals were a popular subject matter for the designers and manufacturers of mechanical banks. Many kinds of animals are represented by the mechanicals, including lions, bears, dogs, elephants, pigs, buffalo, tiger, camel, horses, mules, cats, squirrel, rabbits, wolf, cow, ram, bull, and last, but not least, monkeys. Monkeys form a rather sizeable group of the mechanical banks, and these include from common to rare and simple action to more complicated action. Some of the mechanical banks in the monkey group are Monkey And Coconut, Monkey And Parrot, Rival (a very rare bank), Monkey With Tray, Zoo, Monkey Bank, Monkey (Coin in Stomach), Little Jocko Musical, Lion And Two Monkeys, Chimpanzee Bank, Hall's Excelsior, Give Me A Penny, and the four different Organ Banks.

A popular figure on the American scene in the late 1800's and early 1900's was the organ grinder with his ever active monkey going through his antics to the tunes of the organ. So it is quite logical that this subject matter is well represented in the monkey group of the mechanicals. These include the four Organ Banks — Organ Bank (Cat And Dog) Type I, Organ Bank (Boy And Girl)

Type II, Organ Bank (Miniature), and the Organ Bank (Monkey). The first three of these have already been classified in past articles, and it is the fourth one, Organ Bank (Monkey), that we now concern ourselves with as No. 277 in the numerical classification.

The Organ Bank (Monkey) was patented May 31, 1881, by Louis Kyser and Alfred C. Rex, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and made by their concern, Kyser & Rex, of the same city. The patent papers and drawings are identical to the bank with one exception. Instead of bells as used on all their Organ Banks, a comb similar to those in some music boxes was to be utilized to provide the musical sound. The patent refers to the comb as a 'musical fork' and further explains that they do not confine themselves to this method of providing music, but prefer this method for this type of toy. The writer feels that when the bank approached the production stage they, Kyser & Rex, decided to use bells. The writer has never seen or heard of any of the four Organ Banks that used a comb or fork for providing the sound. He feels quite certain that none were ever produced in this fashion.

The bank shown is in excellent original condition with no repairs and fine original paint. Colors are an all over brown on the organ with the name, pipes, and decorations on the front in gold. The music sheet on the lower front section is white with black notes. The grillwork on the sides and the back is in gold, as is the crank operating handle. Inscribed in the back is the patent date 'PAT. MAY 31, 1881'. The monkey sits on a green seat and he has red trousers and a yellow jacket. The jacket has red edging, red buttons, and white cuffs. His hat is blue with a yellow visor and a yellow dot on top. The monkey is brown with white eyes, black pupils, and a red mouth. The extended tray in his right hand is gold. This all adds up to a very attractive bank.

The bank is held together by a large force bolt through the center top and bottom. A key lock coin trap is in the base plate.

To operate, a coin is placed on the tray and the crank on the right side is turned clockwise. This causes the monkey to lower the tray to the raised edge coin slot where it slides from the tray into the bank. At the same time he tips his hat forward and then back to his head as shown in the picture. The bells inside make a pleasant sound accompanying the described action.

In closing, when we mention the different animals in the first paragraph some are plural and some singular. These that are singular are mechanical banks which exist in the one animal form only, to the best of the writer's knowledge.

Symphonion Musical Savings Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1979

A recent addition to Wally Tudor's collection is of considerable interest since it is not only a new find in an old mechanical bank, but also a companion piece to another exceptionally fine bank. It is always a real pleasure to announce the finding of a heretofore unknown mechanical, particularly so with a bank of this caliber, and at present it will be No. 278 in the numerical classification. The bank is the Symphonion Musical Savings Bank, You Pay — I Play, and is a companion piece to the Regina Musical Savings Bank.

The Symphonion is a German made bank circa 1890 to 1910. The records it plays are the same flat type discs as the American made Regina; however, they are 7-5/8 inches in diameter, smaller than those used by the Regina. The winding crank is on the side of this bank (see photos), unlike the Regina with the crank on the front. Also, unlike the Regina, the coin slot is on the back center top, set on a rectangular brass plate. The coin chute mechanism and operation is also different than

the Regina. Different too is the lever that holds the records in place, the Regina being horizontal, while the Symphonion is vertical. Note front photo (Figure 1).

The cabinet of the Symphonion is made of nicely grained walnut and well constructed. Rather than a locking drawer for coins as used on the Regina, the Symphonion has a locking full sized wood bottom which swings open for removal of coins. Similar to the Regina are the four corner brass decorations on the front (Figure 1).

The wood ornament top piece is reversible with English wording on one side for the English speaking trade, and German on the other for the German trade. The English side (Figure 1) has the following in gold lettering:

Symphonion
Musical Savings Bank
YOU PAY — I PLAY
Made In Germany

The German side (Figure 2) is imprinted in gold lettering as follows:

Symphonion
Musik-Spar-Bank !

As mentioned, this two language name plate is reversible in that the round column ends fit into round holes in the top of the bank. Thus either lettered side can be set to the front.

The music playing part of the bank is the same as the Regina, a single comb with sprocket wheel type units that engage the playing teeth of the perforated disc and then the tuned tines of the comb.

To operate the bank, a record is placed in position as shown (Figure 1) and the mechanism is wound with the crank. A coin, in this case a large size English penny, is dropped into the top slot, the mechanism is activated and music plays. The piece plays one time for each coin.

To those interested, the Regina Musical Savings Bank appeared in HOBBIES, May 1966. Like the Regina, the Symphonion is a large impressive bank and comparable in size.

Wally is to be congratulated for this fine addition to his collection and it's exceptional to add a mechanical bank of this quality to the list of known old mechanical banks.

Dog On Turntable & Gem Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1979

Two very nice H. L. Judd mechanical banks, which are in the animal or dog group of the mechanicals, are our choice as Nos. 279 and 280 in the numerical classification. Dog On Turntable is No. 279 and the Gem Bank is No. 280. Like all Judd mechanicals, there is nothing very spectacular about the action of either bank. However, the action, while simple, is interesting, different, and does a good dependable job in depositing the coins. Judd banks are well made, sturdy, and with very good detail in their castings. Generally speaking, they could stand more rough usage than the average mechanical bank.

H. L. Judd & Company had factories in Wallingford, Connecticut; Brooklyn, New York; and Chattanooga, Tennessee. They also had offices and showrooms on Chambers Street and Reed Street in New York City. This is based on three original catalogs in the writer's possession, Nos. 25, 29 and 30 dated 1892 through 1895. Among other still and mechanical banks, the Dog On Turntable is pictured and described in the 1895 catalog, No. 30. Judd, by the way, made a wide

variety of things in cast iron, including ink stands, match safes, twine boxes, letter clips, bill stickers, paperweights, cast trays, photograph frames, drawer pulls, call bells, and numbers of other items.

The Dog On Turntable, pictured Figure 1, is in mint condition with fine all original finish. The finish as described in the Judd catalog is ebony and gold. They also furnished the bank in two other finishes, copper-bronze and maroon. This bank can be found in nice condition since all these finishes used were quite durable.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed in the tray held in the dog's mouth. The crank on the side is then turned clockwise and the dog goes through the doorway into the building, deposits the coin inside, and comes out through the other door into position ready for another coin. In the original catalog no name is shown for this bank.

The Gem Bank, Figure 2, does have a name and it is on the bank itself just over the doorway of the building. On the decorative top of the roof appears 'PAT'D'. The bank shown is in mint condition with the maroon finish.

To operate, the dog is pulled back into position as shown in the photo. A coin is placed on the tray held in the dog's mouth. On lifting his tail, the dog snaps forward depositing the coin in the building.

To remove coins from the Gem Bank, it is necessary to take the bank apart. A coin trap is provided on the underside of the Dog On Turntable.

Calumet Bank, Type II

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1979

Mechanical banks made only for advertising purposes are few and far between. That is to say, a mechanical made no other way than with the advertising of a certain product or whatever. A few mechanical banks were used for advertising, but this was not the initial or main purpose of these banks. An example of this is the Pump And Bucket, which was used by Gusky's of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, years ago. This has the name 'Gusky's' cast on the base of the bank. The Columbian Magic Savings Bank was utilized as an advertising item with the name 'The Hub' 'Chicago' cast on the center front of the bank. Other concerns also used this bank for advertising.

The feature of an advertising connection with a mechanical bank does add a degree of interest. As a matter of fact, certain collectors of the mechanical banks prefer, if possible, to have the Pump And Bucket with the Gusky's name. It is more unusual and harder to come by than without the name.

As we reach No. 281 in the numerical classification, we have chosen an advertising mechanical that was patented for this purpose and made only this way, with advertising. This interesting bank is the Calumet Bank, Type II, featuring Calumet Baking Powder and the Calumet Kid. It was patented as an advertising novelty September 16, 1924, by Edward E. Barnes of Chicago, Illinois, assignor to Calumet Baking Powder Company of the same city. A quote from Barnes' patent explains the purpose of the bank —

"My invention relates to toy banks of the kind designed for use more particularly as advertising novelties, one that is designed to attract attention by means of an image which is so positioned with respect to the coin receptacle of that bank that each time a coin is dropped into the receptacle the image will be actuated by the coin contacting with a portion of the body thereof extended into the receptacle, which causes the image to move."

The patent further explains that a "suitable surface is provided for presenting advertising matter of any kind which will at all times be displayed in front of the moving image"

The Calumet Bank, Type II shown is in mint condition. Unlike the Calumet Bank, Type I (HOBBIES, November 1966), the 'can' of this bank is cardboard with tin top and bottom. The bank is larger than Type I, both in height and diameter. Height of can is 4 inches and diameter is 2-7/16 inches, overall height is 5-3/4 inches. Measurements of the Type I can are 3-1/4 inches by 2-1/8 inches, overall height is 5 inches. Different, too, is the fact that the full figure of the Calumet Kid is shown on the back of the Type II — this does not appear on the Type I.

The coloring of the bank is a very attractive overall red. Lettering and other decorations are in black, blue and white. The Calumet Kid has natural face coloring with pink cheeks and a blue tie with white polka dots. The 'THANK YOU' lettering is white and is in a larger size than that of the Type I.

To operate the bank, a coin is dropped in the slot and this causes the Kid to rock back and forth for a period of time. There is no provision for removal of coins and it is reasonable to assume that in most cases the bank was destroyed or damaged badly when coins were removed.

The Type I and Type II make a very desirable pair of banks. The Type I is particularly hard to come by, especially so in nice condition.

Minstrel Bank (Tin)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1979

Tin lithographed mechanical banks of German manufacture comprise a particularly desirable attractive group of the mechanicals. The excellence of the lithography combined with the bright fine colors sets them apart with a charisma all their own. This is not to say that the American made cast iron mechanicals are not at the top in desirability, as they are most certainly. It is to say, however, that many collectors are prone to try to compare the German tin with the American cast iron. This cannot logically be done — they are two separate identities. True, they are all toys and all mechanical banks, but that is where any comparison ends. The German tin litho has its own style, appeal and identity, as does the American cast iron.

There was a time not too many years ago when a German made toy was more or less frowned upon by collectors. Not so today, and particularly so with the well detailed early vintage toy automobiles made by various German manufacturers. Japanese toys — nobody really bothered with them. Actually, some wonderful toys have been made in Japan since World War II, so that battery operated banks, space toys and Robots are a big thing today in the collector's field. Those that got in on the ground floor a few years ago were lucky or whatever, but it still offers more or less a whole new field of collecting.

Back to our finely lithographed German tin mechanicals, as we come to a very nice example of this art in the Minstrel Bank, No. 282 in the numerical classification. It well represents what we pointed out above, fine work and bright cheerful colors, adding up to an attractive bank circa 1920's.

The Minstrel shown is in original fine condition with colors as follows: the curved top is red and the base is black. The overall body of the bank is yellow with checkered decorations in black and green. The back of the bank has pinwheel type depictions in red. The face is brown with black hair, red lips, red tongue, white teeth and light brown eyes with black pupils. The operating lever is on a

rectangular red raised section just under the face. Below this appears the following verse in red letters:

**‘Press the lever lightly,
Watch my tongue appear,
Save a penny nightly,
Make your fortune here.’**

Underneath the verse appears in small red letters ‘Made Abroad.’ Underneath this are the letters ‘D.R.G.M.’ in black and a double ‘S’ is in a white square at the bottom front. A locking coin trap is in the underside of the base.

To operate the bank, the front lever is pressed down. A large tongue protrudes from his mouth and he lowers his eyes. A coin is placed on his tongue, the lever is lifted into position causing his tongue to recede with the coin and his eyes to return to position.

The bank pictured is in the great collection of Wally Tudor. It might be well to point out that the writer’s bank, as well as others, has the wording ‘Made in Germany’ on the front, rather than ‘Made Abroad’.

Figure 1 shows the Minstrel before and after operation. Figure 2 shows the Minstrel with his tongue out and his eyes closed.

Scotchman Bank (Tin)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1979

Well last month, October, we had the Minstrel, and this month it’s the Scotchman, No. 283 in our numerical classification of the mechanical banks. As with the Minstrel, this is another very attractive well lithographed item and in a way a companion piece to the Minstrel. That is to say, the configuration of each bank is the same — rectangular upright box shape with the identical curved top and tapered or beveled edge base. Dimensions of each bank are also the same and the actions are basically alike. Appearance-wise, of course, they are quite different due to the fact that the Minstrel is just the face and the Scotchman is a full figure with an oversize head.

Once again, the Scotchman is a product of Germany and in the same time period as the Minstrel, circa 1920’s. On the front (bottom left) appears the word ‘Germany’. Opposite this are the letters ‘D.R.G.M.’, which is the patent designation. By the left foot of the Scotchman there is a circle around a double S indicating the manufacturer.

The bank, from the fine collection of Wally Tudor, is in mint condition with colors of lithography as follows: The curved top is red and the tapered base is black. The bottom front, sides and part of the back is a plaid design in light blue, white, red, black, yellow and green. The front, around the figure of the Scotchman, is red. The hat is blue with a yellow, green and black tassel and a plaid section in red, white and blue. The face is flesh color with ruddy cheeks and nose and a yellow beard. He has a large red tongue and blue eyes. His jacket is blue and green plaid and the socks are blue, black and yellow. His pouch on the front, which is the operating lever, is white, red and black with yellow and green tassel. His shoes are black with yellow buckles. The back of the bank has a great design showing a sword, a plaid skirt, a plaid hat, and so on. Colors are yellow, green, red, blue, white and black. It’s a very attractive colorful bank.

To operate the bank, the front lever is lifted and this causes the tongue to protrude as in Figure 2 and the eyes blink. The coin is placed on the tongue and the lever is pressed causing the eyes to blink again and the tongue to recede with the coin.

A locking coin trap is provided in the base for removal of coins. Figure 1 shows the bank before and after operation.

1979 International Antique Toy Convention

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1979

Well the biggest battery operated toy show ever held is over. That is the way we must refer to the Kennedy International Antique Toy Convention held Sunday, September 23rd, 1979, at the International Hotel, Kennedy Airport, New York. There is no question about it — the battery toys have taken over, and not to be repetitious about it in any way, the writer predicted this several years ago. All signs were in this direction and now it's happened. Battery toys have established a firm foundation and a big permanent place in the toy collecting field.

One dealer, an experienced person having handled mechanical banks and some toys for years, looked a little dazed and made the comment that he couldn't understand what was going on. (He obviously hasn't thought much about battery toys.) Once again there is nothing so permanent as change, and to those who couldn't read the handwriting on the wall a few years ago all we can say is they better hop on the band wagon.

The place was absolutely mobbed with dealers and collectors alike starting at 8:30 A.M. This was due to the fact that a \$25 floor charge allowed the non-exhibitors to go in before the regular opening time at 10:00 A.M. It sure added to the confusion, however, it did put a stop to some collectors who in the past would pay for table space and exhibit one or two items for sale. This so they could get in early before the 10:00 A.M. regular opening time. In any case, collectors and dealers were there from all over the United States and Canada, as well as England, France, Germany, Switzerland and, believe it or not, Japan. It's really ironic when you consider that Japanese people are coming to our country to find toys that were made in Japan. These toys made in the late 40's, 50's and 60's are simply not in Japan. They were in the main shipped to the United States and some to other countries.

Those in the know about this show go on Saturday and believe it there is plenty of action on Saturday afternoon and night in many rooms which are open with all items for sale or trade. There is a lot of trading that goes on between dealer and collector alike, with many of the important items gone before the regular Sunday opening. So if you really want in on the important action, Saturday has a lot to recommend it. Understand, of course, that this is in a much more limited and concentrated area as many dealers do not exhibit, or arrive for that matter, until the regular show opening on Sunday.

There were some good mechanical and still banks for sale and these were shown by Bob McCumber, Haley from England, Joe Olimpio, Whitson, Don Markey, and several others. Perhaps the best and rarest of the mechanicals in the show was the Royal Trick Elephant. This went from Whitson into the ever increasing collection of Al Davidson. It's a pretty tough bank to come by and Al was very pleased to get it.

Along with the mechanicals and still banks, there were a number of the early type cast iron horse drawn toys, as well as some motorcycles, automobiles, and trucks from the 1920's and 30's. Along with this were tin toys, including comics, cars, and so on, also from the 1920's and 30's. So really there was something for everyone in the toy collecting field.

Back to the battery toys since they were more or less the feature of this 1979 show, a number of dealers had outstanding displays. John O'Connor had his usual fine assortment in his usual spot by the entrance way. The writer obtained a very exceptional space toy from John with a simulated lighted atomic motor. Quite nice.

Another fine group of battery toys were displayed by George Hall who has Hallmark Antiques in Oakland, California. Among others, he had the Circus Lion in pristine condition in the original box. This is a great toy with the lion rearing up on his hind legs, clawing with his front legs, and opening his mouth with loud roars.

Lloyd Ralston did a great job with battery toys. His room Saturday night was literally filled with them and then well displayed on Sunday. He had Robots, space toys, and a good general variety with many types to choose from. Lloyd's son, Glenn, hotfooted around the show and picked up some fine items for his dad's battery operated toy collection. Everyone had a good chance at this show, however, as no one can be every place at the same time.

Brian Moran was among those with an excellent group of battery toys, as well as wind-ups. He also had some above average space toys and a Robot or two.

Larry Eisenstein and his mother, Grace had a choice display of a wide variety of toys and nostalgia items. This included some fine battery toys, a few Robots and space items, wind-ups, and things from the 1930's and 40's.

Jean Placente had her usual high level display of toys — tin wind-ups, battery operated, friction, and so on. She had a really great King Kong from the 1960's, a remote control battery toy of good proportions, mostly metal, and very realistic, beating his chest and emitting loud gorilla sounds.

The Sadagursky's toys were just great. Fine comics and tin wind-ups from the 1920's through the 40's, some great battery operated items including an unusual all metal Teddy Bear beating a drum. They had some nice space pieces and a Robot or two, including a fine tin swinging Robot.

It really was a great show and all the dealers the writer talked to said they had brisk sales, lots of action, and a good day of business. There were a lot of toys turned over here, and sorry to say we now have to wait another year. Sure would be great to have this show in the Spring as well as the fall.

Hall's Liliput

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1980

John Hall was one of the pioneer designers of mechanical banks and for the most part he had a definite thing about the way a bank should work, and this was by the weight of a coin. That is to say, the weight caused the action of the parts involved when the coin was set in place or deposited in the bank. Hall was active in the 1870's, which is the earliest period of mechanical banks. His banks were made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut.

Hall's mechanicals, as designed by him, are not particularly spectacular as to action, but the idea of the necessity of using a coin, plus the weight factor, are very desirable features. Then, too, his banks are quite attractive and proportionate. They are well designed, well made, and could stand usage without getting out of order.

The Liliput, Type II and Type III, well represent Hall's work and they are chosen as No. 284 and 285 respectively in our numerical classification.

The Hall's Liliput, Type II (Photo Figure 1), is basically the same as Type III except there is no tray in the man's hands and the figures are somewhat different. The buildings are alike in size and

construction and they have wording on the sides and back of the building, which is unusual.

The Type II is somewhat earlier than the Type III, since after the Type III was put into production all Liliputs from then on had a tray in the teller's hands. On the left side of the Type II building appears the wording 'HALL'S LILIPUT BANK' in red letters. The back shows 'PAT DESIGN JULY 27, 1875'. The right side 'PATENTED MAY 1875' in red letters.

The bank shown in Figure 1 is in great original condition with excellent paint in following colors: The building is yellow with a dome in red, top knob in white, and lines of the dome in white. Decorations on the front of the building are in blue and red and the steps are dark brown. The sunken oval section in back of the teller is a light blue green. The figure has a black jacket, gray trousers, black shoes, red vest, and white shirt. His face and hands are flesh color and his features and hair are black.

To operate, a penny is placed on the extended forearms of the teller. The weight of the penny causes the figure to turn to his left and the coin is deposited in the provided slot. The teller is tilted somewhat and balanced so that he returns to position for another coin.

Type III (Photo Figure 2) has a tray in his hands and thus the arms of the figure are considerably shorter than the forearms of the Type II. This bank is also in pristine condition with wording and color the same as Type II. The round tray in the teller's hands is crinkled on the outer edge which enables a coin to slide from the tray more easily. The operation of this bank is the same as Type II.

The banks make an exceptional pair to have in a collection. They are good examples of Hall's designing talents, and the Type II is a challenge to obtain — it's not very easy to come by.

Mechanical Bank and Toy Auction — P B Eighty Four

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1980

Recession? Depression? One would never think so if they attended the well run auction on Wednesday, December 5, 1979, at PB Eighty-Four in New York City. The afternoon and evening consisted of a toy and mechanical bank session at 2:00 P.M., and then at 6:00 P.M. an exclusive mechanical bank session including in part specimens formerly in the collection of the late John D. Meyer.

PB Eighty-Four, while a strictly business auction house, is, nevertheless, a very pleasant place and the surroundings are appropriate. John Block, the director, did an excellent job as auctioneer of the important evening session. He really moves things along and creates an atmosphere of 'you had better bid or you're going to lose it'.

Credit too should be given to Pamela Brown, a young lady who is in charge of the toy and mechanical bank department. She is efficient, personable and courteous. All in all, from John on down, the entire staff do a nice job in their different categories of operation.

The auction was a well attended affair with top toy and mechanical bank collectors, as well as dealers, present. Two well known dealers were in from England, John Haley and Anthea Knowles. Some of the mechanical bank collectors in attendance were Wally Tudor, Lee Perelman, Ed Mosler, and Al Davidson. Steve Steckbeck and his wife came from Indiana. Bob McCumber, a collector-dealer from Connecticut, also put in an appearance. Don Markey and Oliver Clark showed up. So this just mentions a few of the sizeable group that attended both the afternoon and evening sales.

Pictured are items in the sale showing their estimated selling prices and the actual price obtained. In addition to this, many records were set on other mechanical banks, such as the Giant (which went for \$10,500), the Mason Bank (\$2,250), Red Riding Hood (\$12,000), Bucking Buffalo

(\$3,250), and the Regina Musical Savings Bank (\$5,250).

About all you can say is prices paid for a number of items were nothing short of sensational and this can be said for some of the toys, as well as the mechanical banks.

Top to bottom, left to right:

RARE "PRESTO-MOUSE ON ROOF" LITHOGRAPHED PAPER-ON-WOOD MECHANICAL BANK, in the form of a narrow building, with a mouse emerging from one of two peaks on the roof, (good condition). Length 6-3/8 inches (16.2 cm.) Estimate \$10,000/13,000. Final bid and selling price \$16,000.

"BARNUM BAILEY" LITHOGRAPHED TIN WIND-UP CIRCUS TOY, circa 1935, comprising: an elephant pulling a four-wheeled cart loaded with a collapsible cage containing a camel, a monkey, a lion and giraffe, each mounted on four wheels, (very good condition), contained in the original box (distressed). Length 17-1/2 inches (44.5 cm.) Estimate \$150/250. Final bid and selling price \$170.

LINEMAR LITHOGRAPHED TIN "BUBBLE BLOWING POPEYE", the battery-powered toy in the form of Popeye, a can of spinach in one hand, his pipe in the other, contained in the original box, (very good condition). Height 12 inches (30.5 cm.) (Not working.) Estimate \$200/300. Final bid and selling price \$300.

LINEMAR "MICKEY THE MAGICIAN" LITHOGRAPHED TIN TOY, the battery-operated toy in the form of Mickey dressed in a black velvet cape, making a small chick appear and disappear, contained in the original box. Height 9-1/2 inches (24.2 cm.) (Not working.) Estimate \$200/300. Final bid and selling price \$275.

MICKEY MOUSE RACING CAR, copyright Walt Disney Enterprises, the red lithographed tin wind-up car with Mickey at the wheel, contained in the original box, (very good condition.) Length 4 inches (10.2 cm.) Estimate \$150/200. Final bid and selling price \$180.

FINE MARKLIN BATTLESHIP "WEISSENBERG", circa 1905, complete with four lifeboats on davits, anchor and winch, the bow with cast decoration, bridge, cannons and gun turrets, twin funnels and twin masts surmounted by star-spangled banners, the rudder adjusted by an eight-pointed ship's wheel above, the clockwork mechanism concealed within, operating a four-bladed propeller at the rear, finished in hand-painted gray with porthole detail and white-painted handrails, complete with key and black-painted wheeled support, (minor repainting, bow light an addition). Length 34-1/2 inches (87.6 cm.) Estimate \$6,000/10,000. Final bid and selling price \$21,000.

"GIRL SKIPPING ROPE" CAST-IRON MECHANICAL BANK, Pat'd. Apr. 15, 1890, J. & E. Stevens Co., in the form of a little girl moving her head and legs while skipping rope, (excellent condition). Height 8 inches (20.4 cm.) Estimate — (A low figure mistake in the catalog.) Final bid and selling price \$9,500.

Monkey Bank and Trick Dog Type II

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1980

Two very nice mechanical banks made prior to 1935 by Hubley Manufacturing Company of Lancaster, Pa., fit into the numerical classification at this point. They are the Monkey Bank, No. 286, and the Trick Dog (Type II) No. 287.

In terms of reference, prior to 1935, is used due to the fact that both banks were continued in production until World War II in the period of 1941 to 1942, which time ended the manufacture of

these mechanical banks. It also marked the end of the Hubley Elephant Howdah Mechanical Bank, but more about this bank at another time. It is of interest to note that Hubley was the last of the well-known manufacturers of cast iron toys to make the old type mechanical banks as we know them. It is hard to believe that the Monkey Bank, for example, was sold by Hubley as late as 1937 for \$7.50 a dozen. Their catalog for that year bears witness to this fact.

The Monkey Bank shown, Figure 1, is in fine original condition and represents the organ grinder with his ever present monkey. It well depicts what it is supposed to represent. Colors of the bank are as follows: The base is solid green with a band of gold around the flared bottom edge. The name Monkey Bank is also in gold. The figure of the organ grinder wears a red jacket and hat with a yellow band. His trousers are yellow and shoes are black. The organ is brown and gold. His hair, eyes, eyebrows and mustache are black. Face and hands are flesh color. The monkey is brown with a yellow jacket and red trousers. His hat is blue and gold and the rod holding the monkey is red with a gold stop plate.

The Monkey Bank is shown ready for operation. A coin is placed in the monkey's mouth. On pressing the lever, the monkey springs to the organ dropping the coin therein. Rather simple, but effective action.

The Trick Dog, Type II, shown in Figure 2, has a solid base, rather than the six-part base of the Type I. It is painted similar to the Type I. Later versions of this bank, after 1935 or thereabouts, were painted in a simpler fashion with the clown in black and so on.

Colors of the pre-1935 bank shown are bright and more along the lines of what we would think a circus item should look like. It is painted as follows: The peaked hat is yellow and green. His face and hands are white. Red markings are on his face and the eyes and eyebrows are black. He has a red mouth and a red line around his neck. The decorative collar is green edged in red. His jacket is yellow with a red belt and red edging. His tights are green at the top with yellow legs, and he wears black shoes. A red line is on each leg where the green and yellow of the tights meet. The dog is black with white eyes. The barrel is red with white bands. The top of the base is black with the name Trick Dog in gold. The base is yellow, as is the hoop held by the clown. The flared bottom edge is black.

The bank is shown ready for action. A coin is placed in the dog's mouth. On pressing the lever, the dog jumps through the hoop, depositing the coin in the barrel. Again, simple but effective action.

Both banks are from the very fine collection of Wally Tudor.

Columbian Magic Savings Bank and Elephant (Raised Coin Slot)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1980

Two mechanical banks with minimal action, one of which has some degree of historical significance, are chosen at this time for the numerical classification. They are the Columbian Magic Savings Bank, No. 288, and the Elephant (Raised Coin Slot), No. 289.

The Columbian Magic Savings Bank, Figure 1, is a representation of the Administration Building at the Columbian Exposition of 1893. This large international fair, the World's Columbian Exposition, was also known as the Chicago World's Fair. It was held to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. It was dedicated October 12, 1892, formally opened by President Cleveland, May 1, 1893, and closed October 30, 1893. It

extended about two miles along the Chicago shore of Lake Michigan numbering 666 acres. There were about 150 buildings, a large amusement center, and approximately 27 million attended the fair. One of the extraordinary attractions was the amazing Ferris Wheel built by George Washington Gale Ferris of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The unit weighed 1200 tons and had 36 cars, each of which held 40 persons. All wheels since then all over the world have been known as Ferris Wheels.

The Columbian Magic Savings Bank, with its connection to the Exposition, was also used as an advertising item as shown in Figure 1. Note the wording in the center of the building "THE HUB" CHICAGO. Underneath this appears the dates 1492 and 1892. Below this along the bottom edge is ADMINISTRATION BLDG COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION. On the back of the bank along the top dome is the name COLUMBIAN MAGIC SAVINGS BANK. Below this on a raised oval appears 'Magic' 'Trademark'. Also on the oval is In Production Company N. Y. The bottom edge on the back shows PATENT PENDING. Quite a bit of wording for a mechanical bank.

The bank shown is in fine original condition being nickel plated with the domed back plate in black. To operate, the drawer on the front manually swings open to the right of the bank. A hinged coin holder or rest comes from the inside of the bank, and when a coin is placed thereon and the drawer closed the coin disappears and drops inside the building. A very nice coin trap is provided in the base plate of the bank. It is a double combination dial. The bank is shown in the 1895 Montgomery Ward Catalog at 25c each, without the Hub advertising, of course.

We might mention that the particular bank pictured is a favorite of Wally Tudor of Chicago having the Hub advertising on the front.

The Elephant (Raised Coin Slot) is shown in Figure 2. For one reason or another, it is not an easy bank to come by. The action is very simple, a coin placed in the raised slot causes the trunk to move back and forth and to the side.

It is an all-over gray with the eyes and tusks in white. A large gold blanket covers the back of the elephant, a red strap is down each side. That's it for the coloring.

As to the manufacture of the bank, we have no positive proof as to who made it. We do have some important information, however, provided by an old catalog. The Elephant is pictured in the Montgomery Ward Company No. 70 issue of 1902 at 22c each. It pictures the bank exactly, raised coin slot and all. It describes the action exactly. However, in this case, it says the bank was painted black. This is either an error, which happens now and then, or at one time it was painted black. In either case, the writer has never seen a black one, but has seen a couple of others just as the one described.

The wording PAT APD FOR appears in raised cast letters on the inside of the left rear leg.

A New Find: A New Mickey Mouse

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - January, 1981

It's been quite a while since we have had the opportunity of announcing a new find in an old mechanical bank. Well, this is what happened recently to our good friend, Lee Perelman, and in acquiring the bank he has made a very interesting addition to his extensive collection of the mechanicals.

The bank is Mickey Mouse and it is different than the other known Mickey Mouse. That is to say, both are the same configuration and have the same operation, however, the new find has the body of Mickey in a different position and there is no accordion, or, more properly, concertina. So

now we have a Mickey Mouse, Type I and Type II as shown.

Figure 1 shows the bank in operation with his tongue sticking out and a coin thereon. On lifting or pushing his right ear up, the tongue with coin snaps back inside and his eyes lower. From the head down, the different positions of the body on Type II are as follows: his hands and arms are not as far apart as those of Type I. He is standing with his legs knock-kneed, while on Type I he is dancing with his knees bent outward. His tail has a different curve on Type I, not coming down as near to the base. And finally, there is no musical note on Type II; this appears on Type I by Mickey's right arm.

The back of the bank as shown, Figure 2, is the same as Type I. Both banks have identical coloring of the different parts in yellow, white, black, red, green and orange.

On the bottom left side of both banks appears the following: "By Exclusive Arrangement With The Ideal Films Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Registered 508041."

As it stands, we now have two types of the Mickey Mouse bank, and this has created an interesting but puzzling situation, the answer to which we will probably never know. The question? Why did the manufacturer ever change the front of the bank from one to the other? There is no logical reason that the writer can come up with that would answer this perplexing question properly.

The Target Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - February, 1981

Mechanical banks utilizing a cannon in their operation form a very interesting unique group of the mechanicals. Other than the U.S. & Spain and the Tank & Cannon, the group consists of a type where a cannon shoots at a fort. The really tough bank to get is the Target Bank, a cannon and fort, pictured herewith.

The bank shown is a rare item since it is the only known example that is in pristine all original condition. Three others are known to exist. One pictured in the article for November 1957 has complete target parts missing. One of the other two is complete as to parts, but has very poor paint. The fourth one has the target section missing and it also is in very poor paint condition.

To complete the cannon series of the mechanicals is extremely difficult because of two stumbling blocks – the Target Bank and the Artillery Bank, Type II (helmeted figure). The others in the group are Hold The Fort, Type I and Type II; Artillery Bank, Type I; Octagonal Fort; and the above mentioned U.S. & Spain and Tank & Cannon. All are of American manufacture, except the Tank & Cannon, which is a World War I English made item.

The Target Bank shown was initially in a collection that was under wraps for many years. It is really in fine original paint condition and most attractive in this fashion. It is one of the rare early mechanicals and was patented by Louis C. Hoffmeister of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1877.

To the best of the writer's knowledge, this is the first time that a completely original Target has appeared in any publication. Unusual features of the bank are the firing rod, which knocks coins into the bank; and the fact that it has two coin slots in the target. Smaller coins lie flat in the center horizontal slot of the target, while larger coins rest against the front of the target just in front of a large coin slot. Colors are gray, white, green, red, gold and black. A most appropriately colored mechanical.

The bank shown is the latest addition to the writer's collection.

Home Bank, Type 2

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1981

Now and then the writer checks over past articles for possible errors, omission, or whatever, and recently in so doing discovered that the Home Bank, Type II, had never been classified in article form, so we are taking care of it at this time.

The Home Bank was patented by Doras A. Stiles, of Middletown, Connecticut, July 16, 1872. It was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut. It is a quite sturdy bank with strong mechanism; it is not, however, an easy item to find in the fine paint condition as the one pictured.

Figure 1 shows the Type II bank, and please note the dormer windows. These are not on the Type I bank, and this is the most obvious way to tell the two banks apart.

The bank shown is in extra-fine all-original condition, and Figure 1 shows it in its normal position ready for operation. On pulling the protruding knob forward (the operating lever), the door moves to the left and the bank cashier appears in the doorway, as in Figure 2. The lever locks into position. A coin is placed upright in the provided section in front of the cashier. The knob of the lever is then pushed to the right and the cashier, with coin, revolves inside the bank, replaced by the door, as in Figure 1.

Colors of the bank are as follows; the top roof section is yellow with red and blue lines, the dormer window section is red with yellow windows and blue lines. The rest of the building is yellow with a red bottom base. The name Home Bank is in red, and other sections of the building are in red and blue. The door is light blue with dark blue decoration. The cashier is dressed in tan and brown with a white shirt. He has flesh-colored face with black eyes, eyebrows, mustache and hair. The coin-holding section in front of him is tan and light tan with blue lines. The name 'Cashier' appears on this section.

Home Banks were made with and without the name 'Cashier' on the coin section. They also came with the name cast on the part and with the name on a paper label. The cashier figures are in the main cast iron, however, lead or a pewter-like metal was also used to make some of the figures. So there are Home Banks with a proper original cashier's figure in lead.

The bank pictured is entirely cast iron. There is a coin slot in the back of the building in the event one wants to insert coins without working the bank. No coin trap — the bank must be taken apart for removal of coins.

The Type II is No. 291 in the numerical classification at this point. Information on Type I may be seen in HOBBIES, August 1965.

Please note: the Mickey Mouse, Type II (HOBBIES, January, 1981) is No. 290 in the numerical classification.

Philadelphia International Toy Convention

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1981

Well, the threesome of Bob Bostoff, Phil Capone, and Kelly Tarigo have done it again — if anything, one could say they have "out-Kennedyed" Kennedy. That is to say, the Kennedy International Hotel Toy Show has been the tops of this type of show, but the Philadelphia International Toy Convention held at the Hilton Inn in Trevese, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, January 25, in the writer's opinion and the opinion of numbers of others, was even better than Kennedy.

There is no question but that the surroundings are a vast improvement. There is good service at this Hilton, excellent food, excellent rooms, and a great setup for the show. On entering the show the initial two rooms are like Kennedy, a long room at the entrance way, and on the left a large square-type room. In addition to this, however, there are three rooms on the right of the main entrance way which makes for a very well set up show. Several archways lead into the main room and individual archways lead into the other three separate rooms.

Sure the aisles are rather narrow, as they are at Kennedy, but this allows for a lot more dealers to display. And, anyway, crowded is the way to go and part of the fun.

Action at this convention actually started Thursday night in several rooms, including a few dealers from France. Things picked up more on Friday night, and then on Saturday and Saturday night things really got into high gear.

Lots of pre-show rooms were open with a great array of a variety of toys. These included mechanical banks, still banks, cast iron toys, early tin toys, later comic and character toys, toy automobiles, airplanes, battery toys, and last but not least space stuff and robots — both battery and windup. No one could ask for a greater variety to please one and all. There was something here for every type of toy collector, and that speaks well for this well-organized show.

The Saturday night room thing adds a lot to this kind of toy show, as on Sunday when the regular show takes place there are a lot of additional dealers who show up for Sunday only. Actually, this makes it doubly interesting to a toy collector. In the writer's case, for example, he got some good loot on Saturday night and then again on Sunday. Who could ask for more?

The show opened at 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning for dealer setup and for collectors and dealers who paid floor rights. The general admission charge and official opening was at 10:00 a.m. Believe it, the place got crowded fast and by 11:00 a.m. the entire place was mobbed; the beat was on and jumping.

There was a lot of action in buying and selling, not just lookers, so numbers of dealers were pleased with the results.

Don Markey had his usual select group of banks, banks, and toys of high quality. Bob McCumber had some very nice banks — Jim Maxwell was there with some really great-condition cast-iron Santa Claus Blinking Eye Clock. Lloyd Ralston robots; Larry Eisenstein battery, character toys, and windups; Mario Finnetti with a nice robot or two and some fine battery toys and windups; Brian Moran robots, space toys, battery toys, and windups — a very nice selection; Joe Placente had a select group of toys, cars, windups, battery, and so on; Steffie Sadagursky had some of their usual high quality toys.

People attending were from all around the United States, France, and England. Pierre Boogaerts was here from France. He's the author of the book *Robots*, and had a couple with him for sale, a Cragston-type astronaut, and the Thunder Robot.

This show was called by its promoters "The Largest Show of its kind — Part 2." Part 3 is coming up — it is the Boston International Antique Toy Convention. This will be held Sunday, June 14th, in the Banquet Hall of Howard Johnson's 57 Park Plaza, at Park Square, Boston. The same planned procedures will apply to this show as at Kennedy and at Philadelphia.

Just one point of constructive criticism for most toy shows, and it happened at Philadelphia. The public was still paying admission charges at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon, and some exhibitors were already leaving at this time. It does seem, in all fairness, that if a show is open until 4:00 p.m. or whatever, the exhibitors should stay until that time.

Presto Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1981

Another of the disappearing coin-in-the drawer type mechanicals is our choice as No. 292 in the numerical classification at this time. The bank is the Presto Bank, a very attractive small building type of strong construction and good design. Some others in the group having the same action are the two Serrill Patent Bureaus, Freedmans Bureau, Give Me A Penny, the two Trick Savings Banks, and the Chandlers Bank. These all share a false bottom drawer that drops down when in the closed position. There are other mechanicals, such as the Columbian Magic Savings Bank, that are similar in action, but they do not, strictly speaking, have a false bottom drawer.

The Presto was pictured for sale in the fine Marshall Field & Company catalog for the season of 1892-1893. The text under the picture in the catalog is quoted as follows:

No. 485. Presto Trick Bank, with lock and key opening; size 4 ½ inches high, 4 inches wide, 2½ inches deep. This bank contains the novel feature of a trick drawer. Press down the button over the front door, and the drawer will fly open. Put the coin in and close it. When the button is again pressed the drawer will fly open, but the coin will have mysteriously disappeared. The money can be removed from the bottom of the bank by means of a lock and key. Handsomely decorated, and packed one half dozen in a box . . . per dozen \$2.25.

The bank pictured is in very fine original condition; it is from one of the top collections, that of Wally Tudor, of Chicago, Illinois.

As mentioned the bank is well constructed with very good detail as to brickwork, windows, and front and back door. The entire roof, including the dome, as well as the front and back doors, are bright red. The dome top ball, name Presto Bank, and other decorations are in gold. The windows and around the doors are silver. The brickwork section, which is the rest of the building, is in a japanned finish. Over the back door appears 'PAT APD' in raised cast letters painted gold. The bottom key locking coin trap has the number '485' cast thereon.

The bank is pictured with the drawer in the open position, ready to receive the coin. Needless to say, the bank also fits in the building group of the mechanicals.

Football Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1981

One of the very top mechanical banks from all angles — action, desirability, charisma, rarity, you name it — is the Football Bank (Darky and Watermelon). It is a good-sized impressive piece with great appearance and clever appealing subject matter.

The bank was designed and patented by Charles A. Bailey, June 26, 1888. Bailey without question was the foremost designer of all the designers of mechanical banks. He not only made some wonderful mechanicals of his own workshop (such as the Springing Cat, Chinaman In Boat, Baby Elephant, and others), but he also designed for the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut. His banks manufactured by Stevens were made in cast iron. Banks designed and made by Bailey prior to his arrangement with Stevens were made in a lead-like metal.

All of Charles Bailey's great mechanical bank designing talents are revealed in his No. 1 mechanical bank shown here, the Football Bank (Darky and Watermelon). It would certainly be interesting to know how he ever dreamed up or whatever the subject matter of this unusual bank.

Figure 1 shows the bank set and in position for the action. Figure 2 shows the bank after the

action. To operate, the right leg of the figure is pulled back into position. A coin is then placed in the football. A lever in the coattails is pressed and the football with coin is kicked over onto the large watermelon and the coin drops from the football into the watermelon, which also serves as the coin container. As the described action takes place, the figure raises its head and arms into position as shown in Figure 2. These parts automatically assume the position as shown in Figure 1 when the right leg is set for kicking. Levers on the underside of the bank are so arranged that the football is lifted before the foot makes contact. This compensates for the initial shock of the foot kicking the ball — great design work on the part of Bailey.

The theme or scene of the bank represents a watermelon patch with the large melon in shades of green done quite realistically. The gray base has the green leaves of a watermelon plant with typical yellow flowers — another great Bailey touch. The football and attached lever arm are a tan khaki color. The figure wears a long blue coat with a white shirt and red vest. His hat and shoes are the same color as the football. The hat has a wide black band. His trousers are yellow. His hands and face are black. He has white eyes with black pupils and red lips with white teeth. The four supporting legs of the base and the operating lever between the coattails are gold. That completes the coloring of this most attractive bank.

Only two of these mechanical banks are known to exist. The one shown is the latest addition to the writer's collection.

Creedmoor Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - November, 1981

Collectors of mechanical banks all have their individual favorites. When it comes, however, to the best known, most popular, and, in their time, most widely distributed, there are at least three mechanicals that occupy this position. They are the Creedmoor Bank, Tammany Bank, and Hall's Excelsior. These are all very early banks patented in the 1870's and all three were made over a number of years in considerable quantities.

All three, insofar as mechanical banks are concerned, are considered rather common, but try to find all three in original, near mint condition. This is another story. For example, how often do you find a Hall's Excelsior with the figure having its original arms — or the original bead bell pull — or the paper label in back of the monkey with the wording "cashier?" Different things of comparable nature can be said about both of the other banks, Tammany and Creedmoor.

As we reach No. 293 in the numerical classification, we have chosen the Creedmoor, and the first thing we are going to do is get the background of this unusual name straightened out.

For years the bank's name has been attributed to a rifle range on Long Island, New York; this is only part of the story, however. To begin with, a family by the name of Creed owned property on Long Island. The land amounted to an estate and was called Creedmoor. Moor is a British term used to denote an expanse of open infertile land, peaty, and dominated by grasses and sedges (stubby marsh plants). In England marshes are called moors.

In 1908 the property was deeded over to New York State and it was first used by the American Rifle Club as a rifle range. The surrounding streets were named after rifles, such as Winchester Avenue.

In 1924 the first hospital building was erected on the site as an extension of the Brooklyn State Hospital. This then became the Creedmoor State Hospital, as we know it today.

The Creedmoor Bank was patented by J. H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 6,

1877. It was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company, of Cromwell, Connecticut. They closely followed the configuration and mechanism of the diagrams in Bowen's patent.

The bank shown is in extra fine all-original condition, with only a few paint chips. Colors are as follows: the figure wears black shoes, gray-blue trousers, red coat, and blue cape. He has a yellow belt and a red hat with a yellow band. His hands and face are flesh color and his hair, eyebrows, eyes, and moustache are black. The gun is black with a gold coin-firing piece. The base is dark green with highlighting in red and yellow. Two raised irregular oval brown sections are on the base. The one by the left foot has the name "Creedmoor Bank" and the patent date "Nov. 6, 1877" cast therein. The other has "Bowen's Series." The large tree stump is brown with a tan top and a black and white target on the front. So much for the coloring on this attractive bank.

To operate, the coin-firing part is pulled back into position, and in so doing the head tilts forward as though taking aim. A coin is placed to the rear of the gun barrel in front of the firing piece. On pressing the toe of the right foot, the coin is fired into the target, hitting a bell inside the tree. The figure's head returns to the position as shown in the picture. A nice, conventional action shooting bank.

The bank shown is from the excellent Tudor collection. The writer expresses his appreciation to fellow collector Al Davidson for his help in researching the Creedmoor name.

Frog on Round Base

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - March, 1982

Frogs, along with a toad or two, for one reason or another, were well represented in the field of mechanical banks. That is to say, it is somewhat enlightening when one realizes that a number of the mechanicals utilize a frog as their subject matter. It is highly likely that the large size mouth would be one of the reasons that a frog was used.

In any case, there are some very interesting banks that form the frog group. They are Professor Pug Frog (an outstanding mechanical), Snake and Frog in Pond, Frog Bank (two frogs), Frog on Arched Track, Frog on Rock, Toad on Stump, Flip the Frog, Goat Frog and Old Man, Initiating Bank First Degree, and finally our choice as No. 294 in the numerical classification, the Frog on Round Base.

The bank was patented August 20, 1872 by Russel Frisbie of Cromwell, Connecticut, assignor to the J. and E. Stevens Company of the same place. The patent drawings and text covering the bank are identical to the bank as produced by Stevens. Mr. Frisbie was an official of Stevens and had a lot to do with the operation of the company. The writer was fortunate enough to have known Mr. Frisbie and to have learned a lot from him with respect to mechanical banks and the Stevens Company, their operation, and so on. He was a fine man and always most helpful to the writer on the occasions of his numerous visits to Stevens over a period of time. This included talking with some of the older plant workers who had made mechanical banks and discussions about the Girl Skipping Rope, which was a particularly difficult bank to produce.

The bank shown is in excellent original condition with colors as follows: The frog's head and legs are gold, with his back in green. The top of the base and the base plate are dark brown. The cloverleaf perforated sides of the base are blue with the doorways highlighted in yellow, and the word "Bank" in red. It bears mention that the bank came with a variety of colors on the base — such as red, yellow and green in various combinations. Inscribed on the top of the base by the frog's left hind leg appears "PATD AUG 20 1872."

To operate the bank, the frog's right front foot is pressed down. This causes the mouth to open and the eyes to roll forward. A coin is then placed in the open mouth where it stays in place until the right foot is released, thereby sliding through the frog's body and dropping into the base receptacle. There is no coin trap in this bank and it must be taken apart for removal of coins.

A closing word has to do with the fact that the feature of the coin staying in the frog's mouth until the foot is released is carefully covered in the patent. This is so that the bank must be operated each time a coin is put into the bank.

Novelty Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1982

Among the mechanical banks there is a select group that have as their subject matter an actual savings institution. Naturally this couldn't be a more appropriate subject matter for a mechanical toy savings device. Most are in the form of a bank building, while some others use the same theme but in a different fashion. An example is the Bank Teller Bank where the teller or cashier stands within his cage ready to receive the deposit. No building is involved in this fine rare bank, but rather a part of the inside of a real bank of the period is represented. Some of the other mechanicals in the group are the Liliput, National Bank, Home Bank, The Home Bank (tin) which gives a receipt for your money, Magic Bank, Wireless Bank, and the Novelty Bank, our present choice as No. 295 in the numerical classification.

The Novelty Bank was patented October 28, 1873 by Charles C. Johnson of Somerville, Massachusetts. It was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut. The actual bank as produced by Stevens closely follows the patent drawings both as to configuration and mechanism. It is a well made sturdy mechanical and a good example of Stevens expertise in making mechanical banks. It is interesting to note that Mr. Johnson in his patent text refers to the figure as an image representing a money receiver, rather than cashier or bank teller.

The bank pictured is in excellent all original condition with colors as follows: The basic building, including the two chimneys, are a very light blue-white. The chimneys have dark blue highlights. The roof is a dark blue and the dormer windows are outlined and criss-crossed in red. The front door panels are done in red with the name Novelty Bank in white on a blue background. The four corners of the bank building are in red and the windows on the sides and back are outlined in blue. The base of the building is dark blue. The inside grillwork is yellow with a red counter and a red floor. The bank teller wears a tan suit, the cuffs and lapels of his jacket are brown and he has black shoes. He has a white shirt with yellow edging around the collar and black tie and buttons. His hat matches his suit. The tray he is holding is red. As one can judge from the described colors, this is a bright cheerful bank and a particularly nice building.

On the bottom section of the rear of the building the following is inscribed:

PATD JUNE 23 1872

PATD OCT 28 1873

The writer has never been able to locate the 1872 patent.

The bank as shown has the door open ready for operation. A coin is placed on the tray and the door is nudged or slightly pushed to the right. The spring mechanism snaps the door closed as the teller retreats inside throwing the coin into the building. The door is again manually opened for further operation as the teller comes forward.

In closing it bears mention that Charles C. Johnson had the October 28, 1873 patent re-issued November 9, 1875, and under this date it was assigned to Horace Partridge.

Rooster (Crowing)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1982

Birds as a subject matter form a small, but select group of the mechanical banks. In this group there are such mechanicals as the Bird On Roof, Hen and Chick, Eagle and Eaglets, Boy Robbing Bird's Nest, Owl Type I and Type II, Owl (Turns Head), Pelican Bank Type I, II, III and IV, Two Ducks Bank, and the Rooster Bank, our present choice as No. 296 in the numerical classification.

We should at this point mention that two other mechanicals fit into the bird category as well as, in each case, another category. These banks are the Monkey and Parrot and the Tabby Bank. The parrot on the Monkey and Parrot, of course, and the Tabby Bank with the chick coming out of the egg. The Uncle Remus Bank has overtones of this group since he is stealing chickens from a chicken house and a chicken is the operating lever. The Merry-Go-Round, along with the animals, has a swan and an ostrich. The last two banks, Uncle Remus and Merry-Go-Round, however, do not, strictly speaking, have birds as their subject matter.

A point of interest that bears mention. Fowl was originally a word for birds in general. Now fowl refers very commonly and specifically to a cock or hen; a barnyard or domestic fowl. So the Rooster Bank, while very definitely a bird, is also a fowl. This would apply to the Hen and Chick as well.

There are no known patent papers covering the Rooster Bank, nor are there any indications on the bank itself that would lead to such supposition. As a matter of fact, there are no markings on the bank whatsoever. It is the writer's opinion that the bank was most likely made by Kyser and Rex of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, circa mid-1880s-1890s. There is a possibility that it could have been manufactured by the Mechanical Novelty Works of New Britain, Connecticut.

The bank pictured is in excellent all original condition with paint near mint. The movable parts of the rooster's head are red with white markings. The body of the rooster is a very dark japanned or bronzed type of finish with highlights of dark gold on the body and tail feathers as well. Silver is also lightly and sparingly apparent for highlighting. The base is an all over green with red and yellow designations thereon. Actually the way the bank is painted and the excellent detailed casting are the two main clues that lead the writer to believe that Kyser and Rex made the bank. In any case, it is a very attractive piece.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed in the forward section of the coin slot in the tail. A lever also in the tail slot is then pressed down causing the head parts to move in the realistic fashion of crowing. As the operating lever is pressed down the coin is automatically deposited inside the rooster. Coins are removed from the bank by taking it apart, this by means of a single screw.

The Mosler Collection

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1982

It is with regret that we inform our readers of the death of Edwin H. Mosler, Jr., a leading collector who formulated one of the top mechanical bank collections.

His collection in size or numbers of banks was the largest known due to the fact that he

collected variations. As example, there were over thirty Stollwerck banks in the collection, some in different languages, some with different lithographed figures and design, and others with other types of variations.

The collection at the time was the only one known to have two Bowling Alley banks, the only two known to exist. One is a variation of the other with differences in the bowling figures and coin boxes.

Unsurpassed in the collection were the Jolly Nigger bust type banks in a great number of variations, probably fifty or more would be a close estimate of the number of this type bank. Others of the same type bust banks with different names or no names at all were included. In any case, the Mosler bust group of the mechanical banks was by far the most complete known to exist. It bears mention that the rare Queen Victoria bust is the finest example in any collection. About the only one the writer can think of not in the group is the Indian Chief bank, another rarity.

In the collection were some of the rarer more desirable banks such as the Freedman's Bank; Football Bank (Darky and Watermelon); Clown, Harlequin and Columbine; Bank Teller Bank (a fine example); Ding Dong Bell; Merry-Go-Round; Mikado; Red Riding Hood; and Chinaman in Boat. Two other mechanicals, which in each case are the only ones known to exist, are the Darky Fisherman and the Bow-ery Bank. The Darky Fisherman was formerly in the Gerken collection and the Bow-ery in the Hegarty collection.

The Mosler collection also had a number of the mechanicals in excellent original condition. One in particular comes to mind. This was one of three Magician Banks in the collection. It is absolutely mint with the original flocking in unbelievable shape. No chips on the face or anything like that. His Jonah and Whale (Jonah Emerges) is another top condition bank and one of the best original paint for this rare bank.

Among the tin mechanicals were such banks as Flip the Frog Money Box and the Clown and Dog. These are two tin mechanicals that are quite difficult to come by. Other rare banks in tin included the Frog on Arched Track, British Lion, Royal Trick Elephant, and Snake and Frog in Pond.

Ed Mosler also formulated an extensive collection of still banks and this included some of the more desirable and rarer stills. His interest in still banks was, however, secondary to the mechanicals.

Another collection, one of the most extensive in existence, consisted of bell ringing toys. These in the main were cast iron and animated. The bell ringers form a special group in the toy collecting field. Here again were some of the top rarities in this specialized field. The majority of bell ringers utilize a figure or figures of one type or another in connection with a bell, so that when the toy was pulled along the figure or figures moved causing the bell to ring.

Yet another collection consisted of a more or less select group of cast iron horse drawn toys. Included were animal drawn such as dogs, goats, or whatever. Here again were some outstanding desirable toys. Not an extensive collection in this case.

There were other small collections of toy pistols, blinking eye clocks, Mickey Mouse watches, and so on, but these have been disposed of in recent years.

Another sizeable collection consisted of mechanical banks in the modern category, 1935 on. This is one of the top collections of its kind and included a number of the more desirable battery operated type.

At the present time of the preparation of this article the writer understands that Ed Mosler sold a number of the rare or better mechanicals somewhat prior to his death. This in reference to the old or antique banks, not the modern category. The writer further understands that they were sold

privately to several collectors.

In closing at this time full credit and recognition is given to Ed Mosler for the outstanding mechanical bank collection he formulated over a number of years.

The Cabin Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1982

The building group of the mechanical banks includes quite a variety of different impressive types of buildings. There is, however, one mechanical bank that loosely fits into the building group that represents a simple cabin, and it is the only cabin among the mechanicals. True there is the so-called Signal Cabin Bank (tin), but it most certainly is not a cabin in any sense of the word. It has lithographed definitions of brickwork, defined windows, and other features of a well constructed building, not a cabin.

In any case, the Cabin Bank pictured herewith is No. 297 in the numerical classification and two of its interesting features are its unique action and unusual representations on the cabin itself.

The bank shown is in nice original condition. It was made by the J. and E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut, and is shown in their catalog for the mid-1880s. This catalog has the Eagle and Eaglets on the front cover and the Cabin Bank is shown on the back cover. It is also pictured and described on page 16 of the same catalog.

The bank comes in a variety of colors. The one shown is an all over green with brown outlining of the boards on the roof, sides and back. The rectangular section on the roof is red. The white-wash brush, which also serves as the operating lever, has a white brush and copper finish handle. The animal skin and the slotted grill are black. The window is outlined in red. On the other side there is another window outlined in red. On this side of the cabin a banjo is shown and it is brown with yellow strings.

The figure standing in the doorway wears a blue shirt, yellow suspenders, and red tattered trousers. He has blue stockings and black shoes. His face is black with a red mouth and large white eyes with black pupils. The sections of the entrance on each side of the figure are red. The base of the cabin is brown.

The bank is shown ready for operation. A coin is placed in the provided spot on the roof over the head of the figure. The handle of the white-wash brush is then pulled forward causing the spring operated figure to stand on his head kicking the coin into the bank. For further operation the figure is replaced manually into position as shown in the picture.

Coins are removed from the bank by means of the conventional round Stevens coin trap.

Owl (Turns Head)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1982

The bird category or group of the mechanical banks is not a very large one, but it does comprise some rather interesting mechanicals. In the May 1982 article we listed some of the banks in this group. Among them is the Owl (Turns Head), our present choice as No. 298 in the numerical classification. It is one of the more common of the bird group, however, it is really a fine representation of an owl. It bears mention that among the rarer banks in the group are the Bird on Roof, the Type III Pelican with the Arab, the Type IV Pelican with the Rabbit, and the Two Ducks Bank.

The bank shown is in very nice original condition and it's from the extensive collection of Wally Tudor of Chicago, Illinois. It was made by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut.

Unusual is the fact that the bank is covered by two patents, a design patent and a regular patent, both issued to James H. Bowen of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The design patent is dated September 21, 1880, and the other September 28, 1880. Interestingly, the drawing of the design patent shows just the owl on a log. The tree limb extending upward along the owl's left wing is not shown. The regular patent of September 28th shows this limb in the drawing. As a matter of fact, there are three drawings of the owl in this patent.

The operation of the bank is simple, but effective. A coin is placed at the top of the branch. The operating lever in the rear is depressed causing the owl's head to turn counter clockwise and thereby allowing the coin to drop inside the owl itself. Bowen explains in the patent that he wanted to achieve the effect of the owl discovering the existence of a coin at the side of its head and reaching for it. The head then quickly returning to position, on releasing the lever, creating the effect that the owl apparently swallows the coin. Coins are removed by means of a conventional round Stevens trap in the base plate.

The colors of the bank are as follows: The owl is an all over tan-khaki with dark brown highlighting of the feathers. The log and limb are brown with a darker brown bark. In the back there is representation of green foliage at the bottom and also at the top of the limb. Each end of the bottom log is yellow with brown age lines. The bank shown has yellow glass eyes with black pupils. Early versions of this bank have larger glass eyes with large black pupils and brown with yellow lined irises. And, by the way, on the front of the log there is a little green and a little yellow on small stump pieces.

On the base plate is inscribed 'PATD SEPT 21 & 28TH 1880.'

Owl Type II (Slot in Book)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1982

Following through with last month's article on the Owl (Turns Head), we have at this time another Owl, which is quite different, as No. 299 in the numerical classification. This bank, Owl, Type II (Slot in Book), frankly speaking, does not have the quality and fine workmanship as compared to the Stevens Owl (Turns Head). This is not meant to demean the bank in any way, but, simply stated, the characteristics of an owl are not particularly well represented by this bank.

Once again the bank pictured is from the fine collection of Wally Tudor of Chicago, Illinois. It is in reasonably good original condition, especially for this bank. It bears mention that for one reason or another this Owl Bank is more often than not usually found in fairly beat up condition. The paint seemed to chip very readily with any usage. On the other hand, some examples have been found in excellent condition, but this does not happen too often.

The bank is a rather late item and unusual is the fact that it was designed by a woman. It is one of a 'family' of mechanical banks, all designed by M. Elizabeth Cook prior to 1926. The mechanicals in the 'family' are Blinky the Owl pictured herewith, Blinky the Owl (Owl, Type I, Slot in Head), Flop Ears the Rabbit (Rabbit in Cabbage), Jug-O-Rum the Frog (Frog on Rock), and Pokey the Turtle (Turtle Bank). They were all manufactured by the Kilgore Manufacturing Company, Toytown Workers Division, Westerville, Ohio. Kilgore in the 1926 period advertised the banks as 'The Toytown Workers Group of Animal Banks' and 'The Thrifty Four.'

The bank is an overall light tan with highlighting in brown in a toned or shaded fashion. The beak is yellow, as are the eyes which have black pupils. To operate the bank, a coin is pushed into the provided slot which is in a book held in the right wing of the owl. Pushing the coin in this slot causes the eyes to move or blink. A key lock coin trap is located in the stump base of the bank for removal of coins.

In closing, it should be noted that this Owl is the easiest member of the 'family' to obtain — the really tough one is the Turtle.

Tammany Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - April, 1983

Probably the most popular mechanical bank of all times is our choice as No. 300 in the numerical classification. This is the Tammany Bank with its extra fine action of pocketing the coin and nodding the head in thanks.

A considerable amount of intrigue surrounding the bank has to do with its being an effigy or representation of the infamous Boss Tweed of Tammany fame. Well, if this be the case, the figure has no resemblance to Boss Tweed whatsoever. It is rather doubtful that either Hall or Frisbie had Tweed himself in mind when the bank was originally designed. It was, in fact, at one time simply called Little Fat Man Bank.

In later productions of the bank, after an initial run for a period of time with no name, the name Tammany was added to the pattern and subsequent banks over a period of many years bore this name.

The first to patent the bank was John Hall of Watertown, Massachusetts. This patent was issued December 23, 1873. The drawings accompanying this patent are rather weird looking, however, the basic principle of the operation is accurately defined.

On June 8, 1875, the bank was again patented, but this time by Russel Frisbie of Cromwell, Connecticut. While the patent drawings in this patent look more like the actual bank itself, the operation was different in that the right foot was pressed to activate the right arm.

Remember John Hall was more or less obsessed with the idea of the weight of a coin working any bank, or in certain cases activating the mechanism as, for example, his Horse Race Bank. In any case, the Tammany Bank as manufactured was based on his patent and it operated by the weight of the coin. Also, Hall's original patent date of 1873 is inscribed on the back top edge of the chair.

This all follows through with very important bearing on the fact that on October 9, 1877, a patent was re-issued to John Hall covering the same bank with the diagrams more in line with the way the bank really looks. This patent has a bank. In the patent Hall refers to the bank as "My invention relates to a toy money box which I term 'The Tammany Bank' and consists of a figure of a man." So much for that and the name.

One more fact in the background of this interesting bank. Each of Hall's patents, 1873 and 1877, show the right arm triggered by a wire lever. This is not the case in production — he stayed right with his weight of the coin thing only.

This bank shown is in fine pristine condition, all original with a few slight paint chips. Colors are as follows: The chair is tan with a mottled orange-brown outlining. The figure wears a black jacket, yellow vest, white shirt, blue bow-tie, brown trousers, and black shoes. His face and hands are flesh color. His hair, moustache, and features of his face are all black.

To operate, a coin is placed in his right hand which lowers (from the weight of the coin) to his left hand where it drops into the provided slot pocket. In so doing the head nods forward, caused again by the weight of the coin.

A top mechanical bank, albeit it is one of the most common. It was a popular well liked bank in its time and this has carried right through to its becoming a very desirable collector's item. Manufacturer — J. & E. Stevens Co., Cromwell, Connecticut.

Halls Excelsior Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - May, 1983

Last month's April article covered one of the, or possibly, the most popular and best known of all the mechanical banks. It was designed and patented by John Hall and made by Stevens. Hall comes to the front once again, as well as Stevens, as we reach our choice for No. 301 in the numerical classification. This is the Halls Excelsior Bank, famous for the fact it is the earliest known and patented cast iron mechanical bank.

That is quite a distinction for a cast iron mechanical, and it all started December 21st, 1869, when the patent was issued to John Hall of Watertown, Massachusetts. The patent drawings show a picture of a man with a large moustache, instead of the monkey seated at the desk as the bank was actually made. Hall refers to the bank as a 'Toy Safe or Bank'. His patent carefully covers the fact that the weight of a coin when placed on the desk causes the operation — the top, with the figure, falling into place and the coin dropping inside the bank. Also covered is the movement of the head of the figure. At variance with the production bank, the drawings show the pull bell cord opening the top in a different fashion — going outside the back of the bank and on to the top, which shows a raised finial where the bell cord is attached. Other than the noted two exceptions, the bank itself has the same configuration as those of the patent drawings.

On April 17th, 1877, the patent was re-issued to Hall, this time the patent drawings still showed the figure of a man, rather than a monkey. This man, however, has no large moustache or hat. Otherwise, the drawings are like those of 1869.

The bank shown is in extra fine condition, no repairs and all original. It is hard to find in this fashion, particularly so with the original arms on the monkey and the paper cashier label in back of the head of the monkey. The bank pictured is from the extensive collection of Wally Tudor, Chicago, Illinois.

To operate, the glass bead bell cord is pulled, causing the top to lift into the position as shown in the photo. As the top lifts, the monkey turns his head back and forth a number of times as a person would when indicating 'no'. A coin is then placed on the desk and the weight causes the top to drop back in place with the coin falling inside the building.

Colors are as follows: The building is an all over tan with a red finial-like top and the roof striped in blue and red. The name on the front is in blue and red striping is around the windows and the front corners. The steps are red, the base blue and the doorway outlined in blue. The monkey has black features on a pinkish face. He wears a red jacket and white shirt with black buttons.

Elephant Howdah (Pull Tail)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - June, 1983

Mechanical banks in the form of animals always have a certain special interest since a broad spectrum of different animals are represented. These include rabbits, bears, goats, pigs, dogs, cats, monkeys, a cow, buffalo, horses, lions, mules, a squirrel, and last, but certainly not least, elephants.

There are numerous collectors of animal figures such as those who specialize in dogs, cats, horses, and in particular, elephants. The many different figural elephants offer a broad field to the elephant collector. It is interesting to note that many collectors of elephants who have no interest whatsoever in mechanical banks will have elephant mechanicals in their respective collections.

This now brings us to our choice as No. 302 in the numerical classification – the Elephant Howdah, one of the most popular of all the elephant mechanicals. It has a lot going for it – a fine representation of an elephant with his trunk raised in the good luck position, an attractive howdah, and very nice clever action.

The bank was made by Hubley Manufacturing Company of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, over a period of many years. It is a well-cast cast iron piece and quite strong and durable. It was made into the late 30's (the later examples were white, by the way), and, as a matter of fact, the writer has a 1937 Hubley Catalog that shows the bank at \$7.50 a dozen, wholesale price of course.

The bank shown is in extra fine all original condition with colors of paint as follows: The figure itself is an all over gray. His tusks are white, as are his eyes, which have black pupils. The blanket is dark blue with wide gold fringe. A wide red strap goes around and under his body. The howdah is red with ornate outlining and definitions in gold. His mouth is red, as are the corners of his eyes. The end of his trunk, where the coin is placed, is also red. All in all an attractive, colorful bank.

To operate, a coin is placed in the provided slot. The photo shows the proper position of the trunk to receive the coin. The elephant's tail is then pulled back causing the trunk to snap back over the head of the elephant. The coin is thrown into the front section of the howdah and on inside the body. The action is swift and effective.

Coins are removed by taking the bank apart, which is held together by a center screw.

In closing, it bears mention that elephants form a very fine group of the mechanical banks. Also of note, Hubley was the last of the cast iron mechanical bank manufacturers to go out of the business of producing cast iron mechanicals. This occurred during the 1941-1942 period.

Home Bank (Tin)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - July, 1983

A rather unusual tin mechanical, the Home Bank, is our choice as No. 303 in the numerical classification. It is interesting and different since the bank itself represents a bank building with a teller in the entrance way and on depositing a coin, a receipt is given to the depositor.

The bank was made in two versions, one with tin insides and the other with wooden insides. The earlier version is the one made with wood and pictured herewith.

That the bank is interesting and different is further substantiated by the unusual paper and cardboard labels with instructions inside.

The entire left side of the building is the coin trap. That is to say it locks in place and is removable to take the coins from the bank as well as place the receipts inside. The side piece has cardboard on the back with the following printed thereon:

**Every Day Morrison Home Bank Every Day
Lay A Bit Away Lay A Bit Away
Patents Applied For**

Directions

Arrange tickets as numbered 1-2-3 etc. starting with Number 1 at the bottom. Place 50 tickets at a time and see that they are all placed in Bank even, then close door tight, place side wall in grooves and lock with key.

Now you can start your deposits.

Deposit coin in slot and pull desk in front of cashier as far as it will go. Don't release until you receive receipt. Each receipt will show amount deposited and total.

DON'T HOLD BANK UPSIDE DOWN.

**Manufactured only by
William Morrison**

**Every Day 5216 Reisterstown Road Every Day
Lay A Bit Away Baltimore, Maryland Lay A Bit Away**

On the wooden door inside the bank that is opened to place the deposit slips, the following appears on a paper label:

**Place Tickets Inside
To open door —
press opening upward as far
as it will go, and
push right end of door.
Manufactured only by
William Morrison To Open
5216 Reisterstown Road Push Here
Baltimore, Maryland**

The bank shown is in fine all original condition with colors as follows: The roof is a gray blue showing definitions of shingles. The building is red brick with gray stone work corners and base. The front column entrance is also gray stonework. The name Home Bank is in blue, as is the name Receiving Teller over the barred window. The teller wears a blue suit, white shirt, and red tie. He has natural features and blonde hair. Under his cage appears in black "Get Your Receipt Here." On the bottom front edge of the building is "Patents Applied For." Two barred windows are on each side of the building and one in the back. These have the appearance of gray stonework with a yellow shade or curtain halfway down. The shadowy designations of people inside the bank appear in the windows.

In the photo a receipt is shown in the entrance way.

Elephant (Gray – Moves Trunk) Large and Small

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - August, 1983

Two mechanical banks that the writer does not know very much about as to their background are our choice at this time as Nos. 304 and 305 in the numerical classification. One elephant is rather large and the other is small. The large one is No. 304 and the small one No. 305.

The elephants appear in some jobbers' catalogs of the 1920 period; however, the writer has not seen any manufacturer's catalog that shows the banks. There is nothing on the banks to indicate anything – manufacturer, date, or designer. So be it until such time we find out more.

The banks have the same configuration, and the design work on the howdah and blanket of each is the same. They are also the same color.

The colors are as follows: The elephants are an all-over gray, and the howdah and blanket of each are silver. The crescents and stars, strap, fringe, and other decorative effects are all done in gold.

As to action, when a coin is placed in the slot in the howdah, the trunk moves back and forth. Not much action, but very definitely any coin placed in either bank causes the trunk to move.

So while they certainly aren't great mechanical banks, they definitely are in the mechanical category.

Coins are removed by means of the single screw that holds each bank together.

Figure 1 shows the larger size, and Figure 2 the smaller. While these are rather common as mechanicals go, nevertheless they are not easy to find in the paint condition of the two shown. Both are entirely original with no repairs.

It bears mentioning that, as often as not, either of the banks is found with the trunk missing.

Two Ducks Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - September, 1983

Once again, as we reach No. 306 in the numerical classification, we are confronted with a mechanical bank about which the writer knows very little as to its background – manufacturer, designer, or whatever. This bank is the Two Ducks Bank, and it was made prior to 1935, based on the information of a party in Missouri who had bought it prior to that time.

There is absolutely nothing on the bank to indicate anything about the designer or manufacturer. One thing noteworthy about it is the fact that it is not cast iron, but rather a white metal alloy. This does not tell us any more about its background, however. The structural nature of the bank, configuration, and subject matter are of no help either. These factors can be – and have been – of help, however, in the case of certain other mechanicals.

The bank shown is in nice condition and all original. It is painted simply with the base in blue and the ducks white with black definitions. The writer has seen several of these banks over the years, including one with the base in green, also a variety with the trough somewhat different and other minor differences in the casting.

In any case, the fact that several exist adds to the authenticity of the bank, and substantiates that it is not something that somebody made, or anything like that. This is mentioned since the bank does not have the same "look" that most of the old mechanicals have.

To operate the bank, a coin is placed in the bill of the upright duck on the right as pictured. The operating lever is pressed down, and the duck with the coin bends forward and drops the coin in the

trough. At the same time, the other duck moves upright so the coin can go into the trough. Sort of simple action, but quite effective and rather attractive in its own way.

The word, "BANK" appears in large block raised letters on top of the base between the two ducks.

Music Bank (Tin)

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - October, 1983

A bank about which the writer has no background information at all is our choice as No. 307 in the numerical classification. The writer has waited for quite a few years for some definitive information, but so far nothing has come up. In any case, there is no question that this bank was manufactured a number of years before 1935. Also, it must be noted that the bank does belong considerably further up in the listing as it is so hard to come by.

The Music Bank shown is from the excellent collection of Wally Tudor in Chicago. It is in fine original condition and finished in an all-over black. The decorations have sort of an Oriental appearance. They are done in pastels of color in silver and gold, with an effect similar to stenciling.

It is made of rather heavy-gauge tin as compared to many of the lithographed German tin banks.

This bank winds up with a crank which is inserted in the hole in the front, as shown in the photo.

When a coin is dropped in the slot, a music box inside is activated and plays a pleasant tune.

There is a locking key trap; the key is also shown in the photo.

This bank may be of foreign manufacture, possibly German. It is rather large, comparable in size to the German-made Woodpecker Bank. The music box is a Swiss type, as is the music box in the Woodpecker.

That is all we can tell you for now. Should further information ever come to light, it will be passed along to our readers.

Savo Bank

by F.H. Griffith - HOBBIES Magazine - December, 1983

A rather simple mechanical bank devoid of any great redeeming features is our choice as No. 308 in the numerical classification. This is the Savo Bank made of tin with no coin trap. The only way to get the coins out of the bank is to destroy it, cut the bottom out or whatever. So on this basis and due to this fact, it is not an easy bank to find in pristine condition.

The bank shown is from the fine collection of Wally Tudor of Chicago, Illinois. It is in all original condition and practically mint. The lever on top, when moved to the left, allows a coin to be placed in the provided section. On moving the lever to the right, the coin section moves to the left, depositing the coin inside the can. This is all there is to it, there isn't any more.

Colors of the bank and figures are in red, white, blue, brown and yellow. The example shown represents a drum with a variety of figures in various costumes of dress. On the top, in blue, is the name "SAVO BANK." Under this appears "Trade Mark Reg. U.S. Pat. Off." On the bottom, stamped in the metal, is the following: "MADE IN U.S.A.," "PATS - 1443943 - 1804733 - 1838650." These patent dates run from 1923 to 1932.

The writer's example of this bank is very much the same as the one shown, except it is a drum with no figures. It is an orange-yellow with red and black. All else is the same as already described.

Another example of this bank, in the writer's collection, is rectangular in shape, and this is Type

II. The name on the top of this example, in a sort of purple-violet, is "SAVO SAVING BANK." It carries one patent number only with other patents pending. The number is 1443943. Based on this, it is earlier and made before the drum type. Figures of animals are around the sides of the bank. On the front is a jumping horse, on the back a jumping cow. Two cats are on one end and a cat and a dog are on the other.

It is highly likely that other examples of this bank exist with different lithography, rectangular or round.

Mechanical Banks & Toys by

F. H. Griffith

HOBBIES MAGAZINE

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