9-3-1992

September 3 1992

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WHEN THIMBLES ARE A DYMOND'S BEST FRIEND

A picture of that tiny, roundish, often metal, fez-shaped object that slips over a seamstress's thumb might be the first thought to enter your mind upon learning that thousands of adults around the world have collected them. Perhaps it will be the question: Why?

Collecting thimbles sounds—at least on the surface—about as exciting as collecting coasters or golf toes or antique coat hangers. But you could never tell by talking to any one of the 335 conference—thimble collectors, among them—including Judy Dymond, who met down in San Diego in mid-August for their International Thimble Collectors (ITC) convention. For 22 years now Dymond has been gathering up these ancient sewing utensils. Thimbles in their earliest forms were probably simple pieces of leather wrapped around the finger. It was the Chinese who introduced bronze, brass and silver ring-like thimbles around the second century A.D.

"I've sewn all of my life," says Dymond, a member of ITC since 1980. The organization boasts 800 members. "When I first started thimble collecting, I was pregnant. A friend gave me a brass thimble with a safety pin in the rim, and said 'this is to pin to your apron so that you always have a thimble with you.'"

With more than 1,000 thimbles in her collection, Dymond says hers is small in comparison to others. Yet the possessions a little bit of almost every kind of imaginable—porcelain ones, silver ones, brass ones, celluloid ones, plastic ones, ones with flower prints, with envelopes, with ads for real estate companies, coffee companies, cleaner companies, presidential candidates and rugmakers, one with a cow jumping over the moon and one of Senator Mirovsky, "whoever that is," says Dymond.

"What I specially collect are thimbles with the diamond shape on them, because of my name." Thimble making and collecting is big business today. Franklin Mint has produced several series of thimbles. In 1979, Westfield Williams paid $18,000 for a 240-year-old Meissen thimble that featured hand-painted harbor scenes within gold-trimmed carvatures.

And that is why thimble collectors collect thimbles, says Dymond. "It's really a love of the work of the artist, to preserve a part of history." In Germany, the Smithsonian Institute has devoted an entire museum to a large collection of thimbles. But the attraction to collecting goes beyond artistry and history for Dymond. "I think the most important part of thimble collecting is collecting friends. I'm sure I could go to any state in the union and be welcomed into someone's home that's a collector."

(Have an interesting hobby? Know someone who does? Let the Bulletin know at Ext. 5007 or drop a note.)

HOW THREE PROFESSORS SPENT THEIR SUMMER (VACATION?)

At the upper end of the Ojai Valley, 20 miles inland from the city of Ventura, 38 high school seniors (and, perhaps, a couple of extraordinary juniors) did their research this summer as it's meant to be done—together.

"It's a misconception," says Dr. Leo Connolly (Physics), academic director of the Summer Science Program for the past eight years, "that science is done in isolation. Good research is done by teamwork." The program is funded through the Young Scholars Program of the National Science Foundation.

Since 1959, the program has been training students. Intensive and isolated, the month-and-a-half long program fuses math, physics, chemistry, and computer science.

"These students start and finish their own research projects," says Connolly. "That has been consistent throughout the 34 years of the program. For that reason, it's a very intensive program. You can't waste time."

But there are no grades to worry about and no college credits to earn. Connolly is quick to add, "It's learning for the sake of learning." And at the end of the program, the students are "changed," he says, and they go on to apply at some of the best colleges in the country.

Southern California country and its summertime earthquakes seized the interest of Dr. Sally McGill (Geology) over the last several weeks.

All the shaking around San Bernardino County has given her untold opportunities to examine earth displacement in the area. McGill is among a host of researchers, including members of Cal Tech and the U.S. Geological Survey, who have set about mapping the 70 kilometer rupture created by the June 28 Landers quake.

At the most, says McGill, the earth in that area seems to have shifted six-and-one-half meters horizontally and one-and-one-half meters vertically.

McGill expects to be one of around 50 authors of a strip map that will show details of the splays and how the ground broke. Although teaching summer session during August, Dr. Sherry Howie (Educators) spent most of the traditional break writing a book on "College Thinking and Composing." The book is aimed at entry-level college students, and is designed to impart the "necessary thinking skills that underlie writing," explains Howie. She expects the book to be published in about a year by Allyn & Bacon.

The book has evolved from some of Howie's work as a columnist for The San Bernardino County Sun during the past year. It will include examples of college writing collected through Cal State's English Department, and her writing classes within the School of Education.

BILL SHUM
Physical Planning and Development

On Nice, Long Weekends and Not Worrying About the Dogs

"It gives us (Bill and his wife, Cindy) a chance to reconnect... We raise them (the dogs) in a Chinese way—self-reliance. So it's not a problem to feed them early in the morning, because we don't feed them early in the morning, but later in the afternoon. They just have to wait."

JILL LEWIS
Management Department

On Working 3 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

"I voted for these hours... It's real quiet. I work on the third floor of the biology building. Sometimes it's just me and the computer here."

JILL LEWIS
Management Department

Sleepy-eyed and Overheard in the Admin Hallway, 7 a.m.

"What are all these people doing in my room?"

Photo taken spontaneously with a Polaroid camera by Jay Wamper.
1992 EARLY RETIREMENT PROGRAM
Four Years Extra Service Credit - Faculty
Two Years Extra Service Credit - Staff

The 1992 early retirement incentive (AB1522) has been signed by the governor and the CSU is pleased to announce that implementation of this program has begun.

FACULTY
Retirements must be effective with PERS/STRS between August 15 and October 31, 1992, inclusive. This program applies to all employees eligible to retire and who are covered under the faculty bargaining agreement. It also applies to counselors and academic-related student services professionals formerly included in Unit 4 and currently represented by the CFA. Under the new legislation, faculty bargaining unit members will receive four years extra service credit in the calculation of their retirement income.

Who is eligible:
You must be currently employed by the CSU, and a member of Bargaining Unit 3.
You must retire no earlier than August 15 and no later than October 31. If you are a PERS member, you must have five years of state service to be eligible to retire.
You must be at least 50 years old on your retirement date.
You must be retiring for service, and not requesting a disability retirement benefit.
Retiring faculty may choose to participate in either the Early Retirement or FERP, but not both.

STAFF
The 1992 early retirement incentive for staff also has been approved. Retirement must be effective between August 27 and October 31, 1992. You must be currently employed by the CSU and must retire no earlier than August 27 and no later than October 31. If you are a PERS member, you must have five years of state service to be eligible to retire. You must be at least 50-years-old on your retirement date. The retirement may be service or disability retirement.

Additional information may be obtained from the benefits officer, Marjorie Callaghan, Ext. 5138 in the Personnel Office.

ASSISTIVE DEVICE PROGRAM REMINDER
Assistive Device Program Proposal request forms for Phase II should be obtained from and submitted to the Personnel Office no later than October 6, 1992. Requests will be forwarded to the Chancellor’s Office for committee review and final approval. For more information, please call Twilea Carthen, personnel management specialist at Ext. 5138.

EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS
Treat your family to worlds of fun at a discount while the specials last......

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR
September 11 - October 4, 1992. Discount tickets are available in the Personnel Office (CASH ONLY).

ADULT
Advance Prices $7.00
Gate Prices $10.00

CHILD (6-12)
Advance Prices $4.00
Gate Prices $5.00

Children 5 and under admitted free.

Fair fun pack also available for $10 ($25 value offer).
Includes:
5 buy one/get one-free game coupons
45 ride coupons
25 ride coupons (not good on rides).

ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FAIR FUN PACKS CAN BE EXCHANGED FOR WRISTBANDS.

DISNEYLAND
Monday, September 7 - Friday, September 11 and Sundays, September 13, 20 and 27, 1992 from 9 a.m. to midnight. $25.75 per passport (2 years and under are free). Includes admission to Disneyland Park; unlimited use of all attractions (except Arcades); free parking ($5 value); Main Street Electrical Parade and FANTASMIC through September 13.

Tickets are now available in the Personnel Office (CASH ONLY).

KNOTT’S BERRY FARM FALL SPECIAL
Tuesday, September 11 - Sunday November 1, 1992 from 9 a.m. to midnight. Ticket prices:

Adults $11.95
Children (3-11) 9.95
Children 2 and under are free.

KNOTT’S SCARY FARM
October 10 ONLY—$22.00 per person. Tickets are available in the Personnel Office (CASH ONLY).

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact the Personnel Office at Ext. 5138.