



## BUFFALO NICKELS BY: MIKE STANLEY

IN THE MID 1950'S WE HAD A LAUNDROMAT IN THE NEAR VICINITY THAT HAD A CHANGE MACHINE ON THE WALL. IF YOU PUT IN A QUARTER IT WOULD RETURN TWO DIMES AND A NICKEL. PUT IN A DIME AND BACK CAME TWO NICKELS. SO BEING A COIN COLLECTOR SINCE THE AGE OF FOUR I WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MACHINE AT LEAST EVERY OTHER DAY. IF IT WAS OUT OF CHANGE , THERE WAS A NUMBER TO CALL FOR SERVICE. I WOULD CALL THE COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICING THE MACHINES AND TELL THEM THAT I HAD LOTS OF ALUNDRY TO DO AND NEEDED CHANGE AND THEY WOULD BE OUT TO SERVICE THE MACHINES IN ABOUT AN HOUR. I WOULD HIDE AT THE SODA SHOP A FEW DOORS AWAY WITH A DIRECT VIEW OF THE FRONT OF THE LAUNDROMAT, WAITING FOR THE TECHNICIAN TO ARRIVE. I WOULD ALWAYS TAKE TWO ROLLS OF QUARTERS WITH ME AND START WORKING ON THE CHANGE MACHINE. EVERY SO OFTEN I WOULD GET A LIBERTY HEAD NICKEL, THIS WAS CONDIERED A BONUS. EVERY BUFFALO NICKEL THAT CAME OUT OF THE MACHINE I WOULD PUT IN MY POCKET. EVEN IF THE DATES WERE WORN OFF IT WAS EASY ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY THE 1913 TYPE I NICKELS BECAUSE THE BUFFALO STOOD ON A MOUND AND THEN IF THERE WAS A MINT MARK ON THE COIN I WAS IN HEAVEN.

AFTER EMPTYING THE MACHINE AGAIN I WOULD CALL THE SERVICE NUMBER AND HEAD HOME. I HAD BOUT THE CHEAP WHITMAN COIN ALBUMS, THEY ONLY COST 35 CENTS BACK IN THE OLD DAYS. I PURCHASES A BOTTLE OF "NICK-A-DATE" A CHEMICAL USED TO RESORE DATES ON THE COINS THAT WERE WORN OFF. WITHIN TWO YEARS I HAD COMPLETED 13 SETS OF BUFFALO NICKELS EXCEPT FOR THE 1918/17 OVERDATE. IT WAS TOTAL FUN FOR AN 11 YEAR OLD. I REMEMBER AT THE SAN FRANCISCO COIN CLUB THERE WAS A MAN WHO WOULD PAY \$40.00 FOR RESTORED DATE SETS. I WOULD TAKE THIS MONEY AND BUY A \$20.00 GOLD PIECE. TODAY I HAVE UPGRADED TO DANSKO DELUXE ALBUMS AND MY BUFFALOS ARE NEAR MINT CONDITION – I'M STILL LOOKING FOR THE 1918/17.