

Once in a Lifetime Happenings

By Mike Stanley

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53 Years ago, I was too young to drive to the San Francisco Coin Club. My neighbor, also a member said he would drive me. On the way he told me I would have to ride in the back seat because he was picking up another adult. When the adult got in the front seat of the car I was introduced to him. He reached over the seat and shook my hand. A few blocks later he reached into his sport coat pocket and pulled out some coins in 2 x 2's and said to me; "Take a look at these nickels!" I did and to my amazement were five full horn, split tail, choice brilliant uncirculated 3-legged buffalo nickels! I was shocked to see the quality of these nickels and then to see five at one glance. WOW!!! The gentleman that showed them to me says take your pick just \$25.00 each. Today in that condition \$1500.00+

While attending the American Numismatic Association convention in New York City, I came upon a dealer noted for selling Standing Liberty Quarters. I noticed he had some raw 1916's in his case. I asked if I could see them. He handed the stack to me and I had five different coins graded Very fine or better in my hand valued over \$50,000.

At the Salt Lake City ANA convention in 2002, I got to sit in the auction room where a 1913 Liberty Head Nickel sold for \$1.6 Million, and then a few years later in Baltimore I was able to pose in a picture with all five known 1913 Liberty Head Nickels!