

Washington Quarters

By: Mike Stanley

A neat story about collecting these quarters took place in 1960. I grew up in Daly City, California and would go through my Grandfather's excess change in his grocery store looking for worn down quarters. Usually it would be Washington quarters in the 30's if they were worn. I would find everything except the 1932 S and D mint coins.

One day a Catholic priest that I use to serve mass for at the local church asked if I would like to go see the movie Spartacus? I responded yes and he told me to take the Municipal Railway Bus into San Francisco and that he would meet me in front of the theater around 1 PM. I took the #14 Mission Ferry bus at the top of the hill in Daly City and in those days, the bus fare was 15 cents. You could hand the conductor a dollar bill and he would click out of his change holder three quarters, two dimes and a nickel. Right away I noticed a worn down quarter with a date of 1932. I turned the coin over to discover it had an S mint mark on it!

Upon arrival at Fifth and Mission, I got off the bus and walked to the United Artist Theater on Market Street. Within a few Minutes, the Priest showed up and said before we go in the theater he had to go into a Navy surplus store a few stores away to get some black shoe laces. I went with him he bought two sets of laces for twenty cents placed a dollar bill on the counter. The clerk gave him three quarters and a nickel in change. One of the quarters was a nice 1932. I immediately asked to look at his change and turned over the 1932, and low and behold another 1932-S, two rare coins within an hour and a half of each other.

These were the good old days when you could find rare coins in circulation. Prior to going into the Navy in early 1964, I had assembled two complete sets of Washington Quarters from circulation. And since that time have upgraded to choice BU including all the proof issues. The Washington quarters are now in its 80th year of mintage.