## Lost Cannon

by Wilborne Harrell

A CHOWAN HERALD FICTION STORY



WHAT HAS HAPPENED

Brant and Jim Carson, teems deriching and skin divers are bearching and hit the deck. They re-behind the gunman. His words moved their diving gear and Ted carried a cold inflexibility that looked about him. Instantly killed any idea of resistance the results are the same than Slowly Ted swam along, giv- seemed to reach out and warn so slightly and covered the gun-

ing an occasional push with his him of a hidden danger. ning the bottom.

Ted snapped on his underwa- ed in their direction. ter flashlight. He played its It was then, in an illuminat-

murky water.

farther, until finally he was eas- serious, Ted would have felt like ned at Jim, who grinned back ing along just above the bot-laughing. These men really and said, "Me, too." sam and jetsam, rotting tim-covered was a rusty cannon! boys we'd be looking out for in the same spot. bers and what looked like what "Hold it, you two!" said the you. We've noted every move

he saw it. His light speared the breech end of a it!" The gun's muzzle wavered I saw you, Professor, creeping mass of iron sticking up out of back and forth between Jim up, I froze. I didn't want to the silty bottom that could be and Ted. "We know you've do anything that would give you nothing else but a cannon, rust-found it. Does that buoy out away." ed and corroded with many there mark the spot?"

Ted's heart leaped. If here spread here before him, a few it, kid-we haven't got all day!" Blackbeard's treasure."

around the cannon. Slowly the the back. released buoy floated upward toward the surface, and Ted, giving a kick with his flippers, hastened back to the rendezvous point to bring the good news to

Jim's underwater grin, after Ted had given him the prearranged code that a strike had been made, was one of elation and he and Ted both struck out, swimming strongly, for the

The yacht soon loomed overhead and Ted and Jim swarm-



how to keep your HOME IN THE FAMILY and your FAMILY IN THEIR HOME Ted sensed that something was gunman may have entertained wrong; instinct or a sixth sense Professor Hill's gun moved ever

flippers, his eyes alertly scan- I'wo men emerged from aft. One of them, held a gun point- and the two would-be hijackers

beam in ever-widening circles, ing flash, Ted knew what the Hill to the man who had come picking out the bottom which shadow was that passed over up behind him. "They're all became brightly illuminated in him when he was deep below the flashlight's radiance. If the surface. It was a small yours. Take 'em away!" there were anything on the bot- boat manned by these two men A few minutes later a small tom, cannon or anything else, from the cruiser that had them share. Seated amidship wearhe couldn't possibly miss it. under surveillance. And, Ted shore. Seated amidship, wear-The flashlight's beam cut a thought, these men think we crest-fallen and now thoroughly sharply lighted path ahead of have found Blackbeard's treashim as he swam through the ure, and their intention is to subdued hijackers. hijack it.

Down went Ted, farther and If the situation had not been tom of the Sound. His flashlight thought they were hijacking a played back and forth, picking rich pirate treasure, when ac- in his hand and placed it in his

had once been great casks or man with the gun. The scowl those fellows made, and when hogsheads. He kept alert for on his face and the steadily held they made their play, we moved anything that may resemble a menacing gun in his hand could in." not be ignored.

feet below the Sound's bottom. So intent had the gunman's at- Ted excitedly told Professor

man's pal.

The gunman dropped his gun, raised their hands.

"Okay, Chief," said Professor

A few minutes later a small ing handcuffs, were the two

"Phew! I'm glad that's over." Ted mopped his brow and grin-

Professor Hill hefted the gun

"For a second or two, I was "Where is it? Quick-out with scared," said Ted. "But when

Professor Hill walked to the Ted and Jim remained silent. rail. "We are all scared in The man with the gun drew times like that," he said quietwere one cannon, there might his lips back in a ferocious grin, ly. He pointed to the buoy. be others. The whole cargo of and his knuckles whitened as "Well, I see you've found somejettisoned cannon could by they tighted on the gun. "Spill thing - and I'm sure it isn't

With trembling fingers he re- tention been on Ted and Jim, Hill about finding the cannon, leased the buoy he carried, after he had heard or seen nothing deep under the surface of the tying one end of its anchor rope until hard metal prodded him in Sound. And more of the cannon must still be there, he ex-"Drop it!" The crisp, incisive plained, for the whole load of



WHAT A BOA—Squeezy, 10-foot boa constrictor at Boston's Museum of Science, seems unimpressed by penicillin shot. David Bonney administers the treatment for Squeezy's in-

up long-submerged bits of flot-tually all he and Jim had dis- pocket. He smiled. "I told you cannon were dumped overboard "You and Jim have done a swell job. And incidentally, you boys "Ted," said the Professor, have made quite a bit of money,

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too. Did you know that there was a substantial reward for those two hijackers? They were badly wanted men, and I'll see his sleep." that you two get the reward. Doctor—"I'll give you some-And you'll also be well paid for locating the cannon."

The Professor cocked his eyebrow and cast a quizzical glance at Ted. "Who says there isn't treasure in the Sound," he said, smilingly. "And as good as finding Blackbeard's treasure, eh?"

While the Professor was speaking, Ted, like one in a dream and just awakening, looked down at his closed fist. He slowly opened his hand and spread his fingers. Softly he spoke. "I was so excited I had forgotten all about this. I found it beside the cannon."

Resting on Ted's palm was a tarnished golden coin, battered and scarred after many years under water. But it was a golden coin and definitely recognizable as a Spanish piece-of-eight. Ted was like one caught up in a fantastic spell. His eyes veil-

"Who knows?" he breathed. Maybe there is treasure in the Sound, after all. It could be. Jim, old Blackbeard's treasure is will down there, waiting for

THE END

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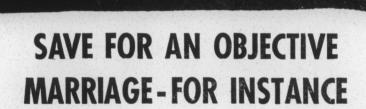
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