

Lost Cannon

by Wilborne Harrell



A CHOWAN HERALD FICTION STORY

**WHAT HAS HAPPENED**  
Ted Brant and Jim Carson, teenagers, and skin divers are searching for a cargo of cannon that was dumped into Edenton Bay during the revolution. Incidentally, they are also looking for a treasure that Blackbeard was supposed to have secreted in the Bay.

Slowly Ted swam along, giving an occasional push with his flippers, his eyes alertly scanning the bottom.

Ted snapped on his underwater flashlight. He played its beam in ever-widening circles, picking out the bottom which became brightly illuminated in the flashlight's radiance. If there were anything on the bottom, cannon or anything else, he couldn't possibly miss it.

The flashlight's beam cut a sharply lighted path ahead of him as he swam through the murky water.

Down went Ted, farther and farther, until finally he was easing along just above the bottom of the Sound. His flashlight played back and forth, picking up long-submerged bits of flotsam and jetsam, rotting timbers and what looked like what had once been great casks or hogheads. He kept alert for anything that may resemble a cannon.

Then he saw it. His light speared the breech end of a mass of iron sticking up out of the silty bottom that could be nothing else but a cannon, rusted and corroded with many years under water.

Ted's heart leaped. If here were one cannon, there might be others. The whole cargo of jettisoned cannon could spread here before him, a few feet below the Sound's bottom.

With trembling fingers he released the buoy he carried, after tying one end of its anchor rope around the cannon. Slowly the 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.

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

The yacht soon loomed overhead and Ted and Jim swam-

ed quickly up the over-side ladder and hit the deck. They removed their diving gear and Ted looked about him. Instantly Ted sensed that something was wrong; instinct or a sixth sense seemed to reach out and warn him of a hidden danger.

Two men emerged from aft. One of them, held a gun pointed in their direction.

It was then, in an illuminating flash, Ted knew what the shadow was that passed over him when he was deep below the surface. It was a small boat manned by these two men from the cruiser that had them under surveillance. And, Ted thought, these men think we have found Blackbeard's treasure, and their intention is to hijack it.

If the situation had not been serious, Ted would have felt like laughing. These men really thought they were hijacking a rich pirate treasure, when actually all he and Jim had discovered was a rusty cannon!

"Hold it, you two!" said the man with the gun. The scowl on his face and the steadily held menacing gun in his hand could not be ignored.

"Where is it? Quick—out with it!" The gun's muzzle wavered back and forth between Jim and Ted. "We know you've found it. Does that buoy out there mark the spot?"

Ted and Jim remained silent. The man with the gun drew his lips back in a ferocious grin, and his knuckles whitened as they tightened on the gun. "Spill it, kid—we haven't got all day!"

So intent had the gunman's attention been on Ted and Jim, he had heard or seen nothing until hard metal prodded him in the back.

"Drop it!" The crisp, incisive

voice of Professor Hill spoke behind the gunman. His words carried a cold inflexibility that killed any idea of resistance the gunman may have entertained. Professor Hill's gun moved ever so slightly and covered the gunman's pal.

The gunman dropped his gun, and the two would-be hijackers raised their hands.

"Okay, Chief," said Professor Hill to the man who had come up behind him. "They're all yours. Take 'em away!"

A few minutes later a small launch left the yacht headed for shore. Seated amidship, wearing handcuffs, were the two crest-fallen and now thoroughly subdued hijackers.

"Phew! I'm glad that's over." Ted mopped his brow and grinned at Jim, who grinned back and said, "Me, too."

Professor Hill hefted the gun in his hand and placed it in his pocket. He smiled. "I told you boys we'd be looking out for you. We've noted every move those fellows made, and when they made their play, we moved in."

"For a second or two, I was scared," said Ted. "But when I saw you, Professor, creeping up, I froze. I didn't want to do anything that would give you away."

Professor Hill walked to the rail. "We are all scared in times like that," he said quietly. He pointed to the buoy. "Well, I see you've found something — and I'm sure it isn't Blackbeard's treasure."

Ted excitedly told Professor Hill about finding the cannon, deep under the surface of the Sound. And more of the cannon must still be there, he explained, for the whole load of



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

cannon were dumped overboard in the same spot. "You and Jim have done a swell job. And incidentally, you boys," Ted, said the Professor, have made quite a bit of money.

REMEMBER

You Save The Middle Man's Profit

J. Winton Sawyer

CEMETERY MEMORIALS

405 S. Road St.

Phone 5995

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.

too. Did you know that there was a substantial reward for those two hijackers? They were badly wanted men, and I'll see that you two get the reward. 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 veiled.

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

THE END

TRY A HERALD CLASSIFIED

GOVERNMENT SURPLUS SALES

Now anyone can buy surplus. U. S. GOVERNMENT SURPLUS DEPOSITS, by mail for yourself or for resale. Cameras, binoculars, cars, jeeps, trucks, boats, hardware, office machines and equipment, tents, tools and tens-of-thousands of other items at a fraction of their original cost. Many items brand new. For list of hundreds of U. S. Government Surplus Deposits, located in every State and overseas with pamphlet "How Government Can Ship Direct To You" plus procedures. HOW TO BUY and how to get FREE SURPLUS, with \$2.00 to SURPLUS SALES INFORMATION SERVICES, P. O. Box No. 1818, Washington 5, D. C.

**Spying**  
Woman—"My husband talks in his sleep."  
Doctor—"I'll give you some-

thing to quiet him."  
Woman—"No, I want something to make him talk louder. I can't quite make out what he says."

**FOR Contract AND Repair Work**  
— CALL —  
**Twiddy Insurance & Real Estate Inc.**  
PHONE 2163 — EDENTON

Don't Lag—Buy Olag



dentists say "wonderful" . . . "best I've ever used" . . . "best tooth paste on the market"

OLD Ned White



STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY

6 YEARS OLD

\$2.25 PINT

\$3.50 86 PROOF

JAMES WALSH & CO. LAWRENCEBURG, KENTUCKY

— EXTRA SPECIALS FOR —

EDENTON'S NEIGHBOR DAYS

November 10th Thru November 19th

Westclox Waterproof

WATCHES

Regular \$10.95 Value

NOW \$8.95

Timex - Waterproof - Dustproof

WATCHES

Regular \$15.00 Value

NOW \$13.95

Hallmark Christmas Cards  
Tags and Ribbons

Gift Wrappings

10% OFF

Eastman Kodak Gift Sets  
\$10.00 to \$124.50

PROJECTORS — KODAKS  
MOVIE CAMERAS

10% OFF

Refresh At Our Fountain While Shopping In Edenton

— FEATURING —

SANDWICHES AND LIGHT LUNCHES

RELIABLE PRESCRIPTION SERVICE FOR  
OVER HALF CENTURY

Mitchener's Pharmacy

Phone 3711

Edenton, N. C.



JOE THORUD SAYS:

how to keep your HOME IN THE FAMILY and your FAMILY IN THEIR HOME



Just see your Nationwide man and ask for a Mortgage Cancellation plan. Here's really low cost insurance that your mortgage will be fully paid automatically if you're not here to do it. Check Nationwide — the company with the best plan for a new one.

JOE THORUD  
204 Bank of Edenton Bldg.  
P. O. Box 504  
PHONE 5429

NATIONWIDE



SAVE FOR AN OBJECTIVE MARRIAGE-FOR INSTANCE

. . . the bride for her trousseau, the groom for some of that cash he'll need.

A savings objective — marriage, a home, education, travel, retirement, money in the bank — is the spark that will keep you depositing with enthusiasm week after week.

Pick yours now. And pick this friendly and convenient bank in which to save.

People make the difference at  
**PEOPLES**  
Bank and Trust Company

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA

3% Interest Paid On Savings Accounts

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION  
DEPOSITS INSURED TO \$10,000