

NEWS ABOUT NATIONALS



The Greatest Wyoming National Bank Note Find of 1976

By THOMAS F. MASON

THIS numismatist had music in his ears this January! The music was especially sweet because of the arrival of a registered letter from a friend. This particular friend mentioned last fall that he had located a note which was a particular Wyoming rarity but didn't know the correct value to pay for it. I told him, and he said he would let me know, so I forgot about it until this package arrived and I opened it up.

I feasted my eyes on one of the rarest small notes ever printed for Wyoming—a \$50 1929 type 1 on Lovell!

The same week that this great rarity came in, the new 1976 Hewitt-Donlon catalogue arrived, and under Wyoming it shows a total of a big zero for known \$50's on Wyoming. This is understandable; the Lovell bank was the only bank in my favorite research and collecting area—Wyoming—to issue high denomination notes and these were all \$50 and \$100 1929 notes. You see, my excitement on finding this note stems from that fact that their total issue was a mere ten sheets of \$50's (60 notes) and six sheets of \$100's (36 notes). As you can see from the photo, this is note E000008A, the second note from the bottom of the eighth sheet.

The great currency find of the nation in 1975 was the first (and as far as I know) the only Lazy Two from the Wyoming National Bank of Laramie, Wyoming Territory by my good friend, researcher, and my number one competitor, Peter Huntoon of Laramie. After that find we were saying to each other: "Now can you top that!" A quick and delighted call to Huntoon brought his reply: "Well Mason, you've got me hands down for 1976 at least!"

Lovell is located in northern Wyoming and was founded in 1900 by Mormon colonists. The town was named for one of the early ranchers. It has become the center for sugar beets and oil in that part of the state. The sugar beet company was built the same year the First National Bank of Lovell was chartered—1916.

Interestingly, the bank never issued large notes. Apparently the bank took advantage of Section 18 of the Act of December 23, 1913 which allowed National Banks to relinquish their circulation privilege to the Federal Reserve System.

This changed after 1929, and the Lovell bank began to issue small-size notes. It is the only bank in Wyoming that issued all possible type I denominations—\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. In type 2, it contracted a bit and issued only \$5s, \$10s, and \$20s. All are considered scarce, but the high denominations have to be considered king—not just for this bank but the state as well.

Now where will I find that \$100!

What a way to start off this Bicentennial year, and if you ask me it is a year to salute and cheer about!

Whitehall, Montana Uncut Sheet-Large Size Nationals

By MILTON M. SLOAN



IT is a rare occasion when one is presented the opportunity to obtain an uncut sheet of large-size National Bank Notes. This is especially true when the sheet represents a town missing from nearly all Montana collections.