

THE LEGEND OF JIM HILL'S TREASURE

Or alternatively, Sir William's Tall Tale

Last week I promised to write this, so here it is. It's really Sir William's tale, but he's so busy running around as the Energizer Bunny that he let me write it down for him. You will have to decide for yourself whether it was worth telling, or it's just a Tall Tale by Sir William.

Jim Hill was a crotchety character, ornery to the max, the kind who makes you roll your eyes and sigh when you see him coming. He demanded much and rarely said thank you. Somehow my mother got along with him, but she could get along with almost anybody in her job as hostess to the store. (I sometimes think about how many of these characters our staffers must deal with in a day, and exercise diplomacy and understanding hours upon end. Bless them!)

The story goes that Jim Hill moved here from back east somewhere. He had done jail time for a robbery and had come out here to get away from his past. He found a place to stay with someone who had room for him, but his dog and his landlord's many dogs didn't get along, so he had to leave.

An acquaintance of Jim's allowed Jim to stay in a stone house on property he owned on the north side. Jim lived in the house and kept his junk in an old bus. He was a sucker for get-rich-quick schemes and was particularly hooked on sweep-

stakes like Publishers' Clearing-house, often calling to see if he had won anything. (No.) Sir William and Lady

Jan were invited to look through the junk for anything of interest but they found mostly papers from all the contests and get-rich-quick programs Jim followed.

Apparently Jim explored the surrounding area some, and one day, as he told Lady Jan later when in the checkstand, he found a metal box half-buried in the ground, with two locks on it. The box was con-

creted to bedrock so that he was unable to get it out of the ground, and he couldn't open the locks. But he was positive this was a treasure chest left behind by some miners from one of the many mines in the area. Two weeks after Jim told Lady Jan about his box, he passed on, never to know what was in his box.

When Jan told Sir William what Jim had told her, Sir William said that he had a map to Jim Hill's place that Jim had drawn so that Sir William could deliver some dog food. He asked if she would like to go look for the box. Yes, of course! Using the map, they ended up at a weekend's place notable for its full outhouse equipped with a Sears catalog and a bucket of lime. Realizing that this was not Jim's place, they decided to explore the mines they saw all around on the hillsides of the Ords. In one mine, way back in the tunnel, they found the initials "JH" newly carved in a post, so they figured they were close. But they never found the box. (Remember, believe this as your own risk.)

Interestingly, at that time another older couple who were also miners would spend time with the Lembrights, tootling around the desert. They had read accounts of the Spaniards who travelled the country in the period 1400-1600, who

sometimes found gold and treasure, and who left markings all over the Southwest to show where the treasures were hidden. Russ believed there were many

of these signs and always had an eye out for them.

He had a mining psychic friend (I think that may be pronounced "sick".) who used a metal detector and a Polaroid camera to find gold or treasure and to detect its aura. Russ and his wife and Sir William and Lady Jan equipped themselves with metal detectors and took the psychic to the mine with the JH in it,

spending about half a day examining the mine and the area around it. Alas, no auras showed up on the camera and no metal excited the detectors! Foo.

Then the Lembrights went tootling with another friend, Darrell, who happened to mention a metal box he had found in the ground in about the area where Jim Hill's box might be. Oh goody! But again, drat, when they found the box, it was open and empty, so they figured Jim must have found the treasure after all. Now they wondered what he might have done with its contents.



During that same period of time, Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association (LVEDA) was formed, and that organization decided to go after filming as a source of income for our struggling economy. Sir William "volunteered" to be the point man for LVEDA in that effort, and one of the filming events necessitated the closing of a residential road located coincidentally in the general vicinity of Jim Hill's box. The Lembrights went to each house on that street to find out if the residents were ok with their road being closed temporarily.

Sir William happened to mention Jim Hill to the last resident he talked to, and the guy knew Jim! Sir William told him about the map leading to a wrong house, and this man said he knew where the right house was, since it was his property and he had allowed Jim to stay there. He also knew all about the box and said that Jim Hill was a liar and exaggerator, because it was he himself who found the box one time when he and friends were out shooting and having a good time (you know what that means).

When they couldn't open it because of the locks, one said he would shoot the locks off, but then they realized that that was a dumb idea since they didn't know what

might be in the box -- maybe dynamite or something dangerous. The friends agreed to split the contents of the box four ways, and they somehow got the lock off the box.

They opened the box. Inside was a wooden box. And inside the wooden box? Well, if I told you, I'd have to shoot you, so just fuhged-aboutit. Or maybe I'll save it for next week. Or maybe you'll have to ask Sir William when you see him. OK, ok, I give up, you'll find the answer somewhere in this ad.⁽¹⁾

Linda Jammal

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

A Baptist preacher and his wife decided to get a new dog. Ever mindful of the congregation, they knew the dog must also be a Baptist. They visited kennel after kennel and explained their needs. Finally, they found a kennel whose owner assured them he had just the dog they wanted. The owner brought the dog to meet the pastor and his wife.

"Fetch the Bible," he commanded. The dog bounded to the bookshelf, scrutinized the books, located the Bible, and brought it to the owner. "Now find Psalm 23," he commanded. The dog placed the Bible on the floor and showing marvelous dexterity with his paws, leafed through and finding the correct passage, pointed to it with his paw. The pastor and his wife were very impressed and purchased the dog.

That evening, a group of church members came to visit. The pastor and his wife began to show off the dog, having him locate several Bible verses. The visitors were very impressed. One man asked, "Can he do regular dog tricks, too?"

"I haven't tried yet," the pastor replied. He pointed his finger at the dog. "HEEL!" the pastor commanded.

The dog immediately jumped on a chair, placed one paw on the pastor's forehead and began to howl.

The pastor looked at his wife in shock and said, "Good Lord! He's Pentecostal!!!"



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, June 8, starts at 5:30PM. At the Alternative Education Center, 8560 Aliento Rd up Highway 18.

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--Theodore Roosevelt

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