

## Think About It

02-16-2015 by Harry Zirkelbach



Is everyone from somewhere else?  
Came to our melting pot?

So it seems when a stranger comes to any town, even Denver.

After 1776 the United State needed a Mint. When founded, where else to build one than Philadelphia, which was also the Capital.

Mints followed Gold Rushes, in San Francisco 1854, Denver April 12, 1862. West Point N.Y. began as a branch Mint in 1988, and Fort Knox Ky stores gold; neither has minted coins for commerce.

The San Francisco Mint (S) has been used for Proof Coinage since 1975. All coins in circulation today are produced in Philadelphia (P) or Denver (D). That later Mint facility was built in 1906.

The Mint were placed under the Dept. Of Treasury in 1873, the same year the Administrative Headquarters were relocated from Philadelphia to Washington D.C. Both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints provide guided tours.

So when friends and relatives jingle coins in their pocket as a sign of prosperity, these tokens were surely Denver made.

The Denver Mint has one piece of notoriety not shared by any. It was robbed. On December 19, 1922, a Black Buick pulled up along side a Federal Reserve truck outside the Mint. Two men stole \$200,000 in cash being loaded into that truck, four others peppering the Mint building with sawed-off shotguns. Mint guards inside alerted, began returning fire out windows. One thief was shot, put in the escape car. They escape. Police lose track of them on our streets.

A month after the robbery the getaway Buick with the frozen body of Nicholas Trainor was found in a rented garage rear of 1631 Gilpin.

Twelve years later Denver Police Captain James Clark identified the five men and two women involved in the robbery, announces most are dead.

That same Denver Mint building, darkly ominous, stands as it did when robbed. Should you take your guests for a free Tour? Ask about the robbery, the coins in your pocket? Guides are helpful.

Fifty years ago the Mint Director was a Political appointment. That year it was Denver's Evelyn Davis\don. And it happened that the Navy Reserve Association held their 1963 annual national meeting at the Brown Palace Hotel. The Chair's wife was a friend of The Mint Director who agreed to a personal Tour for the scheduled fifty wives of attendees.

The mint cities of San Francisco, Philadelphia and Washington were well represented as the Navy had major commands there. The Conventions' Guest Speakers was Scott Carpenter, Astronaut, Boulder High School graduate. And Senator Anderson, N.M., Chair of the Armed Service Senate Committee. Even with these two, and attending Admirals, successful closing formal dinner, the women declared the highlight of the week, the Mint Tour. None had visited a Mint. This day they also saw gold trinkets left by early miners, gold nuggets, commemorative coins, medallions.

The tea and serving dishes were impressive too. A very personal tour. The male Convention attendees envied their wives that day.

A small percentage of Denverites ever visit our Mint. (Reservation required now.) So this summer take someone there, see where coins in your pocket originate. Listen to that history. Buy from the Gift shop some token of your day, as a reminder; THINK ABOUT IT, how lucky you are to be living in the High Plains' historic Queen City.



