

Bad Andy Chronicles

Episode IV

The Hermanator sent the IVTH installment of the Bad Andy Chronicles. Enjoy.

Episode IV – “George Washington”

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George Washington
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By: “Bad Andy” Mesaros

It all started with a phone call on a Friday, of no particular significance to the rest of us, but one that now has the dubious distinction of being part of The Bad Andy Chronicles. So, what happened? Let’s hear it from the Man / Myth / Legend himself as he relays his tale...

January 20, 2017

Got back from Lilly’s Fun Palace at 2 PM. I was tired. Noticed I had a call from Ray Martin while I was out. As I listen to his message, he says he’s just found 258 quarters on one lot. I replayed his message. Yes, that’s what he said, 258! I thought I’d call him back the next morning and see what the deal was.

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January 21, 2017

Before I could call him, he called me. He says he's been back to the same lot for an hour and he has 82 more quarters. "They are all over the lot. My back hurts from all of this bending over. Come over and help." I joined him and at the end of the day, Ray had found a total of 206 for the day. I had found 53 of them. (quick math: \$129.25 for a total between the two)

I failed to mention in the middle of this, a gentleman in a pickup truck stopped by. After saying hello, he points across the way to an apartment complex. He says he and his young sons lived there until about 5 years ago. One day, they (his sons) came home from playing with about \$30 in quarters. Questioning them as to where they got them, they said: "From the woods in the old house lot across the way." The guy said: "After that, whenever his kids asked him for some spending money he would tell them to go to the woods and get your own spending money." (quick math: \$159.25 at least, and counting) This went on for many months, until they moved about 10 miles away. He kept track and said his kids found right about 1,500 quarters in the woods scattered all over the place. [By the way, these quarters were clad, covering all years up to 2016.] (quick math: \$129.25 for Ray and Bad Andy and \$375 for the kids...for a total of \$504.25...this equates to over 3ea, 1/10 oz gold coins...thus far)

Now back to my original story. After the second day at the quarter lot, Ray had had enough. He was just tired of picking up new change (We should all have this problem. Ray actually went back 2 more times.). I want to say, before I go on, that although there were many, many quarters laying on top of the ground, under the leaves and wood chips, many, many more had to be dug up. There were quarters up to 3-4" deep. It was obvious all these quarters were being thrown all over this lot for many years. Many of the ones laying on the top were shiny, right out of your pocket, new coins. Like I mentioned, there were quarters dated 2016.

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For the next 3 visits to the lot, I found another 132 quarters. (quick math: \$537.25 and climbing)

January 28, 2017

The Hermanator and Super Dave Totzke joined me for about an hour (we only left because it was getting real dark). We found 32 quarters total. (quick math: \$8)

I went back 7 more times between 2/3/2017 and 2/27/2017 and found 66 more quarters. (quick math: \$16.50)

By this time, Frank Lawson would join me and also go on his own, whenever it struck his fancy. When it was all said and done for him, he would find 174 quarters on this lot. (quick math: \$43.50)

I went back 4 more times between 3/11/2017 and 4/7/2017 for 61 more. (quick math: \$15.25)

[So, if my math serves me correctly, at this point we are sitting on: \$620.50 recovered, thus far, in just quarters...yep, there's more. And, many of you may remember Ray Martin's Wildcard submission at the January 2017 meeting where he had a wire mesh basket displaying 600+ quarters in one lot...he got 1st place for that.]

New Side Story:

On 4/1/2017, I was taking some photos of the lot to show a few friends back East what the lot looked like. A gentleman comes out of his house, and since I didn't want to tell him the quarter story, I said a friend might be interested in buying this lot and that I was going to send him some photos. Then I realized I was going to hunt the lot again after finishing with the photos, I mentioned having a metal detector and was going to give the lot a try.

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He told me the following: "About a month ago before they cleaned up the lot, where the wood chips are, it was all wooded. A lot of homeless people lived in them for many years. You might find something there."

(Bad Andy's mind is racing: "Do you think? Ha! Finally, somewhat of a clue.")

Again, the gentleman: "I've been living in this house for nearly 40 years and it has always been an empty lot."

Back to the Original Story:

Frank Lawson and myself went over there 4 more times between 4/17/2017 and 5/14/2017. Frank continued to add to his total and I added 20. None of us went back there for the next 10 months except to drive by and see if anything was happening there. I drove by on 3/8/2018 and noticed they had recently pulled up all the tree trunks, leaving depressions and fresh dirt scattered around. I hunted for an hour and found probably my last 2 quarters. (quick math: approximately \$626 in quarters, all told)

But here's Bad Andy's official count (keep in mind, this is just the clad quarters):

The Kids	1,500
Ray Martin	606
Bad Andy	350
Frank Lawson	174
Hermanator	16
<u>Super Dave</u>	<u>13</u>
Total	2,659 (\$664.75)

Bad Andy's Theory on how these coins came to be:

This is the best I could come up with.

Those homeless people who lived there for years went out begging every day.

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They saved all the paper money and for some unknown reason discarded the change. The reason, to my way of thinking as to why all those quarters compared to the smaller change, was that's what people gave them.

The Bad Andy Corollary or Axiom: "If you're going to give a homeless person outside your car window money and you're not going to give them a dollar or two, you're going to give them quarters before you hand out pennies or nickels. You don't want to insult anyone with maybe 13 cents."

That's my theory. Other thoughts? (I think he's tight on.)

And now...the rest of the story...

Oh! I did find 2 Mercury Dimes and a nice .925 silver ring that were left by Treasure Hunters many years before all that change arrived. I'm sure you had to be wondering, ALL QUARTERS!! Not quite. There were pennies, nickels and dimes. Not anywhere as much as the quarters (Bad Andy's Corollary). At the beginning, we kept track, but after a while didn't even bother. I estimate:

Lincoln cents	250
Jefferson nickels	35
Clad dimes	200
Wheaties	25-30

Thank You, Ray Martin (lot finder)! **IT WAS FUN**