



Janet Hall gives Charles Hopkins his long lost class ring she found while using her Garrett metal detector during their recent lunch in Denton.

Denton High School Class Ring Returned After 60 Years

Denton resident Charles Hopkins met Janet Hall of Flower Mound for the first time recently to receive the class ring he lost 60 years ago.

Hall had been using her metal detector on a treasure hunt with friends along the western shore of Lewisville Lake when she unearthed a class ring. She posted the find on Facebook.

A friend and former co-worker, Sheryl McNeely Shaw, saw it and, once she realized it was a Denton ring, she knew she could help her friend find the owner.

A 1972 Denton High School alum, she reached out to others on Facebook and, within a few days, friends sleuthed out the likely owner and sent her phone numbers

“That’s the hard part; everyone’s gone cell now,” Shaw said.

It helped, too, that the ring was engraved with the initials “C.E.H.”

Hopkins doesn’t remember when he lost the gold ring with the red gemstone. But he got several calls from people who said they saw the Facebook posts showing his old class ring had been found, so he was ready when Hall called to arrange a visit.

Hall belongs to the Lone Star Treasure Hunters Club, which meets to compare finds and share tips on using metal detectors.

Many hobbyists skilled with their metal detectors will help people find lost items for free through the website lostmystuff.net, she said.

“Most of us are looking to find historical things and, when we do, we wonder who lost it and who they were,” Hall said.

Civic Patrol

By Celine Buffett

She has found two other class rings, but this was the first time she was able to return one to the owner.

The find triggered a few memories for Hopkins. He may have paid \$18.75 for it. He had been a cabinet-maker with his father back then and made about \$28 per week.

As she pulled the ring from a plastic sandwich bag and handed it over, Hall fussed a little. She had cleaned the ring as best she could, but she told Hopkins she thought it might need to be polished.

Hopkins looked at it and said he thought it was size 9. He’d weighed 128 pounds when he was in high school, he said. He was able to slip the ring over his pinkie finger.

“This is one of the - no, it’s *the* most unusual thing that’s happened to me,” Hopkins said. Hall beamed.

“Now don’t lose it,” she said. “But if you do, call me and I’ll go find it again.”

Courtesy of <http://www.dentonrc.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20140110-lost-ring-returns.ece>

Submitted by Ronnie Morris

How The Ring Finders Metal Detecting Service Got Started

As submitted by Chris Turner
<http://theringfinders.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheRingFinders>

My name is Chris Turner and this is how The Ring Finders Directory came to life.

In 2009, a stranger from the



Charles Hopkins’ long lost Denton High School class ring, which was found by Janet Hall, is shown.

United States I have yet to meet in person contacted me after seeing my metal detecting service in Vancouver, Canada, called “Finders.”

He introduced himself over the phone and mentioned that he’d been following my website for years and went on to say how wonderful it was that I found a way to use my metal detector to help people recover their lost jewelry, and how happy it was making people.

He asked me if I ever thought of creating a global directory so that I could share my ideas with other metal detectorists and, thereby, help more people.

I said, “Yes! but a new website isn’t in my budget at this time.” His response was, “You create it and I’ll pay for it.” And he did!

We incorporated The Ring Finders Directory in October of 2009. With very little advertising, it has steadily grown during these past four years to include more than 250 members representing 18 countries.

The Ring Finders is a Global Directory of Metal Detecting Specialists who help people around the world by finding their lost, most precious and sentimental items, including diamond engagement rings and gold and platinum wedding bands lost at beaches, parks, lakes and yards.

Our humble beginnings saw www.TheRingFinders.com receive 100-200 hits per month in the first year.

Now four years on (2013) we average 9-10,000 hits per month in the summer and 6-8,000 hits during winter months.

Collectively, The Ring Finders’ members are responsible for finding





and returning more than 1,070 lost rings with a combined value exceeding \$2.6 million...all placed safely back into the hands of very happy owners!

Expanding this service worldwide has enabled many people the opportunity to have their lost jewelry found and returned...an opportunity that did not exist at this level before our directory was created.

The combined effect has brought an extremely positive image to our great hobby! Many TV, newspaper and radio stories have been done on The Ring Finders' members and the many amazing recoveries they have made, the fascinating stories they tell, and the lost smiles they find.

I regularly receive e-mails from all over the world asking if I can find someone to help locate a lost ring because there isn't a member on our directory nearby.

I typically research their location to find a metal detectorist that is willing to travel and help them out, and this is very rewarding for everyone.

I have always said that every ring has an amazing story attached to it, and that story ends when the ring is lost!

The Ring Finders help continue that story by using their dedicated skill and knowledge in finding and returning lost rings.

My goal has always been to create and expand the directory where independent treasure hunters can list their service in the way they choose to offer it, and to do this on their own Personal Profile Page where the general public can easily find the member closest to them.

I personally work on a reward basis and give 15% of the reward money I receive from finding lost jewelry to charity (the Children's Hospital) and I share this informa-

tion with my members and let them choose how they would like to run their service.

Ninety-seven percent of the members also work on a reward basis, with a call out fee to cover their gas cost if the item isn't found.

While the most common request is to find lost wedding rings, members have received calls from insurance agencies to locate high value lost rings, law firms to perform house and property searches, food companies to search their finished product for broken machinery parts or other metallic items, and client requests for house and property searches.

I have been looking into ways of expanding opportunities with insurance claims and am making some progress with insurance companies in making them aware of our members' directory and how we can help save them money and quickly close their open claim files.

And, most importantly, we can find the original ring that means so much to their client.

Over the years I personally have found and returned more than 300 lost rings to very happy owners, and I love seeing their smiles when I place the ring in their hand!

My goal is to make The Ring Finders Directory a household name and I don't plan on stopping until I find a way to do that.

I believe people deserve a second chance to regain their most valuable possessions, and it feels great to help my fellow detectorists expand their hobby and provide them with a bit more of the unexpected.

This is truly one of the greatest hobbies because you never know what you're going to find and you never know who will call you and what they have lost. It's always a treasure hunt!

For a small annual fee of \$39.99 (which helps maintain site hosting and updating, as well as corporate fees), I share my 20+ years of experience of finding peoples lost items in my Info Book (Powerpoint Presentation).

This includes tips, tricks, techniques, grid search videos and a downloadable contract members use for client searches, among other things.

If you want to become part of The Ring Finders Directory and receive requests for ring recoveries, please visit www.TheRingFinders.com

I look forward to speaking with you and welcoming you on board. (Please note some basic qualifications apply in order to become a member.)

My dream is to see over one million smiles on The Ring Finders' Book of Smiles!

Happy Hunting Everyone!

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