

surrounding states, and talk about our favorite subject, coins. It was great having a coin buddy, and nice to be able to share in our thrill and passion for the hobby.

Over the past decade, I learned that Gene was the quintessential hunter of the scarce 1952 proof “Superbird” quarter variety. Thanks in part to Gene’s efforts and encouragement, this is now a Cherrypickers’ variety FS#25-1952-901 and certified at all the major grading services. Over the past 12 years, Gene was able to bag a rather modest flock of only a couple of dozen, but it was the thrill of the hunt and the anticipation of the capture of the game that kept his enthusiasm about collecting strong. At home, he would wear his adopted logo proudly on his chest with a tee-shirt that he had custom made (photo below).

Since publication in “Cameo Proofs” 1984 by Val J. Webb, I know of no other dealer or collector who has been as devoted, as excited in finding one as Gene, or for that matter who has been so successful in the hunt. According to veteran quarter specialist, Jose Cortez who inspected the flock, Gene was able to find at least 8 distinct die states, thus helping to expand our numismatic knowledge of these rare birds.

Alas, those days are gone. At age 69, Gene and I can no longer share our passion for the hobby, nor will he ever likely enjoy the thrill of the hunt again. He has been plagued by a yet undiagnosed condition leaving him with severe memory loss and vertigo. Also plagued by Hodgkin’s lymphoma and diabetes, Gene has spent much of the last few months in a hospital bed. His step-daughter, who is acting on his behalf, recently consigned his ultimate prize, the “Superbirds” to me for sale.

Seeing him this ways hurts, because I remember him as the proud and successful hunter-gatherer of his elusive prey. However, there comes a time in the life of every good collector when their prized possessions must give way to the realities of life and of aging. I know Gene would like to know that his “Superbirds” will find their way into good homes, and that they will be appreciated just as much as Gene appreciated them. I will see to that for my “super”friend.

Mr. “Superbird”, I am hoping that any dreams you might have will be pleasant, and will bring you back to those simple and joyful days that you shared with a numismatic friend, the days when you were passionate about collecting and excited and joyful in the hunt for the elusive 1952 Proof “Superbird” quarter.

For further information on please contact Michael S. Fey, Ph.D., RCI, at P.O. Box C, Ironia, NJ 07945 or call (973) 252-4000; FAX (973) 252-0481; E-Mail: Feyms@aol.com; <http://www.rcicoins.com>

