

Ed surveyed the soil falling from the bucket onto the excavated dirt pile. Something glistened in the sun, catching his eye.

"Hold it a minute," he radioed the dig operator. He walked over to the mountain of soil. With his glove, he wiped a fine layer of dirt away, exposing a dark red object, shining back at him. With two of his gloved fingers, he picked it up.

A laborer wearing a yellow hardhat approached him. "What did you find?" he asked.

"A ring. Pretty isn't it?" Ed said, raising the ring into the sunlight. He turned it over in his gloved hand and examined the gold band holding a large dark red stone. "There's no identification. Do you think your girl would want this?"

"Nah, if I did, she would expect a proposal. How about your wife? She likes jewelry."

"It's a little scratched. She would notice," Ed said. "I'll check with the local police to see if someone submitted a Lost Claim. If not, maybe I'll see if Lorilee Dawn would buy it. She takes in curios. Then I'll buy my wife something special."

"Good idea," he worker said.

Ed placed the ring into his pocket and called the operator in the loader cab. "Back to work."