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This Month's Articles

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It's National...

Scavenger Hunt Day on May 24th

Scavenger hunts may have originated from folk games, but Elsa Maxwell has been credited with the creation and popularization. In the 1930s, Elsa Maxwell, an American author, gossip columnist, actress, songwriter, screenwriter, and radio personality, often scheduled scavenger hunts that required guests to obtain items by any means except purchasing them. To increase the level of difficulty, some included clues or riddles and the winner was determined by who had the most items or completed the list.

The love of the scavenger hunt continues. On September 10, 2017, the largest scavenger hunt was held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Escape Manor Inc. organized an event that had 2,732 participants. Every May since 1987, teams from the University of Chicago's dorms compete in a scavenger hunt to find not only the items on the list but also have to find the list. One of the most recent scavenger hunts ended in 2019 and resulted in a number of lawsuits being filed.



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Estate Planning Buzz

Personal Scavenger Hunts

What will you leave behind for your family?

One weekend, we decided to venture to an art museum, an activity that we missed during the past year. We invited a classmate and his family to join us at the museum. Not knowing how long the children would stay, we decided to make an art scavenger hunt to keep them interested. Questions ranged from find a painting that has an animal in it to find a piece of artwork that only has shapes. It was a success!

While most scavenger hunts are fun, one type is not, the one where your heirs have to look for *your* assets. Not only is it helpful to organize your financial records at the end of tax season, but having an up-to-date list of assets will make it easier for your family to administer your estate when the time comes. Some forget about family heirlooms that have sentimental value, or that there is a safe deposit box filled with "treasure".

This is why our annual maintenance program helps our client families keep up-to-date records of what they own to be sure there is no confusion afterwards. If you would like help, please contact us to get started at (248) 409-0256 or info@ferrilawpllc.com. — *Math*

Thrill of the Chase

A Modern Day Scavenger Hunt

In 2010, an art dealer and former air force pilot, Forrest Fenn, self published a novel titled, "The Thrill of the Chase." Included in the novel was a poem that provided clues to find a buried treasure worth over 2 million dollars. The treasure was located in the 1,000 mile stretch from New Mexico to the Canada border. An estimated 350,000 people searched for it. Some quit their jobs and others even died. Eventually the treasure was discovered in 2020, but that isn't the end of the story.

One Colorado man sued Fenn for \$1.5 million in the U.S. District Court, claiming that Fenn deprived him of the treasure "by fraudulent statements." His complaint says that he followed the clues and "arrived at the location where the hidden items were." When he discovered nothing was there, he says that Fenn issued misleading clues that led him from his search and offered additional clues that benefited another treasure hunter. The case was dismissed.



Then after the treasure was found by a man who did not want to be identified, another woman Barbara Andersen, a Chicago real estate attorney filed an injunction in federal District Court alleging she solved the puzzle, but was hacked by someone she doesn't know. Ms. Andersen requested that the court prevent the finder from selling the treasure and to award it to her. She later voluntarily dismissed the case. And the man who found the treasure later identified himself and he is a 32-year-old man from Michigan who only said that he found it in Wyoming.

"It was under a canopy of stars in the lush, forested vegetation of the Rocky Mountains and had not moved from the spot where I hid it more than 10 years ago.

I do not know the person who found it, but the poem in my book led him to the precise spot.

I congratulate the thousands of people who participated in the search and hope they will continue to be drawn by the promise of other discoveries. So the search is over." - Forrest Fenn

Three Ways to Prevent a Scavenger Hunt

Some simple steps to take

Here are three quick ideas that can help you get started.

1. Make a list of your financial accounts, life insurance policies, real estate
2. Discuss and inform your helpers where to find the information about your accounts and legal documents
3. Don't forget about your digital accounts / assets

Take A Break



Can you find:

Crescent Moon
Cupcake
Paintbrush
Banana
Heart
Shoe
Button
Spoon
Pencil
Ring