

When you get to the end of the row, move the outermost pegs to two feet on the other side of the second string, so you have a new corridor marked.

Continue moving the outer pegs inward until you've covered your entire plot.

## **Dig Your Own Yard First**

Okay, back to that day when you buy your first metal detector. Do your first digging in your own yard. There are three excellent reasons to start at home:

- You don't have to get permission from the owner (okay, maybe your wife will object).
- It has probably never been detected before and may well be full of coins. Parks and public places, on the other hand, have been detected over and over by tons of people.
- It takes a while to learn to extract a coin from the ground without leaving a crater, and you must learn to eliminate all evidence of your work before you hit the parks or your neighbors' yards. In fact, turn off the discrimination and dig every target. The more items you recover, trash or treasure, the better you'll get at digging and not leaving holes.

## **Leave No Clues that You Were There**

Don't dig in other yards until you are sure you can do a neat job and leave no evidence you were there. This is doubly important on a nicely-manicured lawn.

Dig only with your screwdriver probe (with the smoothly-rounded tip, remember?), and slowly work the coin up and out with the screwdriver.

Treat parks and schoolyards as if they were your own front lawn. And always carry out the junk you dig – never leave a sign you were there.

Bad things happen when you leave holes. Many people don't think metal detecting should be allowed on public property.

Many communities have already banned the use of detectors in parks. For goodness sake, please don't take your shovel to the park!

When careless treasure hunters leave holes, resentment builds, citizens complain, and local governments pass ordinances that ban metal detecting.

And on a personal level, you don't want to take the chance that someone might step in your hole, trip, and get hurt. Fill your holes!

## **Coin Percentages**

Since I've kept records, I've found that the breakdown percentages of coins found looks roughly like this:

- Memorial Pennies.....65%
- Wheatback Pennies.....3%
- Nickels.....12%
- Clad Dimes.....12%
- Silver Dimes.....2%
- Clad Quarters.....5%
- Silver Quarters .....1/2%
- Other.....1/2%

Sometimes I'll hit an area that seems to be full of one particular denomination of coins, but the above numbers are typical of normal hunting areas.

## **Nickels, Nickels Everywhere**

Here's an example of an aberration. I once hunted an old schoolyard and found a dozen nickels in an area about five feet square.

My next-door neighbor had attended the school as a youngster in the 1930's, and I told him about the nickel trove.

"Was that near the southwest corner of the school house?" he asked. I was shocked – that was exactly where I had found them.

He explained that every September the school had a Fall Festival, and the southwest corner was where celebrants could win dinner plates and glasses by tossing nickels into them.

## **Dimes, Dimes, Dimes**

Another example – I read about a guy who was searching around the ticket booth of an old amusement park, and he found dozens of dimes.