

STAY SAFE

I was amused by the May 2022 story, "Moving Day." It brought back memories.

My friend had an incredible collection of 1921 Thompsons in mint condition and worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. He bought a jeweler's safe in Flagstaff, Ariz., to protect his collection. This safe was the real deal. It weighed so much it bent the axle of the trailer used to transport it to Phoenix, about 120 miles away. He invited me over to witness the monster of steel. I told him it was terrific but I had a \$50 key that would open it. He gave me a look of total puzzlement. I insisted, and he grew more bewildered. At that point, I made a "gun" with my hand, pointed it to his head and said, "Used, \$50 Jennings, open it now."



Lessons: Keep safes out of sight. Show your collection only to trusted individuals and tell them never to mention it to anyone. Provide your significant other with the combination unless you want them to die or be beaten because they cannot open the safe. Signs saying "Black Powder Stored

Inside" may deter or make some safe-crackers not use a cutting torch or cut-off grinder. Criminals are not always the brightest people, so it's worth a try.

→ *Richard MacLean*