

**A Big Decision in 1975 – A House or an
1889-CC Morgan Silver Dollar**

By Kirk Harris

#RM-0550

We're so lucky to have our club's journal, *Curry's Chronicle*, to share our past, present, and future happenings in the Carson City coin market. In this and future issues of *Curry's*, I would like to share a few memorable experiences I've had with "CC" coins over the past 50 years. I'll start with 1975.

Back then, I had been married a few years, had a new baby girl (who in 2015, as a mature woman, typed this article for me), and my wife and I were looking for a home in beautiful downtown Burbank, California. I received a phone call from a coin dealer who wanted to let me know he was heading up to Santa Barbara to buy three Uncirculated 1889-CC Morgan dollars from a doctor. After he purchased the coins he gave me and another coin dealer, who was a good friend of mine, first shot at buying one example apiece. Lo and behold, there at his table at a coin show, were three of the most beautiful Deep Mirror Cameo Prooflike 1889-CC Morgan silver dollars I had ever seen. If my memory serves me correctly, I would say that these three dollars would probably grade MS-63 or MS-64 DMPL today (PCGS and NGC weren't in existence back in 1975).

The price was \$2,500 per coin. I really wanted to buy one, but I faced a dilemma. The down payment for the house my wife and I had selected was \$3,800. My wife said, "The house comes first," and unfortunately (numismatically speaking) I had to agree with her. I had to let the coin go, but to this day I still wish I had bought it.

In 1975, the house was valued at \$38,000, and in today's market it would sell in the upper \$600,000s. The 1889-CC Morgan silver dollar I wish I had bought would probably cost \$90,000 to \$115,000



A Choice Uncirculated Deep Mirror Prooflike Morgan dollar.

(MS-64 DMPL) in today's market, according to Rusty Goe. Our house has increased 1,725% to 1,775% in value over the past 40 years. In comparison, a Choice MS-64 DMPL 1889-CC Morgan dollar has soared in value (based on a 1975 purchase price of \$2,500) by 3,600% to 4,600% during this same period.

My wife won that battle between house versus coin back in 1975, because, after all, we couldn't live in a coin! We needed a roof over our heads. But boy have I notched my share of victories over the past 40 years with my collection of "CC" coins.

I plan to share other special episodes from my life as a collector in other editions of the *Chronicle*. I hope many of you will do the same thing.

(Image courtesy of Southgate Coins)