THE MONEY PIT

“If I could win the lottery, I would travel. If I was rich, I would buy a new house, a new car, furniture and a swimming pool. How many of us have said those very words? I know I have.

I would venture to bet that if Mr. Average Joe won or inherited a million dollars, he, too, would spend the money on things to assist in living and producing a better lifestyle.

Now, rich people can afford more than me, but I wonder what kind of items do they actually spend big bucks on? You will be surprised at some of the world’s priciest items that have been bought and sold. Would you buy any of these items even if you had the money?

If you like cigars, one of the most expensive cigars ever sold was handcrafted in Honduras and came in a box made of carved camel bone and brass. Gurkha Cigars only produced five chests of 100 cigars, each priced at $115,000. That makes each cigar $1,150, a lot of money to “go up in smoke.”

Do you like drinking pricey champagne? The story goes that in 1997, a search team uncovered a ship that sank in the Baltic Sea, containing valuable cargo. The valuable cargo was 2,000 bottles of Heidsieck Monopole Champagne 1907.

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Moscow claimed 10 of the bottles and made them available for sale in 2008. The price? $35,000. According to the hotel’s spokesperson, Sergey Logvinov, a few bottles are still available for purchase.

How much have you ever spent to stay in a nice hotel? Have you ever stayed in a $65,000-a-night hotel suite? (Just think, you could buy a house for that.) The swanky suite is called The Royal Penthouse Suite at the Hotel President Wilson in Geneva.

The palatial suite occupies an entire floor of the hotel has 10 rooms and seven bathrooms. (I think I'll pass.)

Do you enjoy bike riding? In 2008, the Aurumania Company was founded and they made just 10 hand-crafted, 24-carat gold-plated bicycles. Each one had 600 crystals on it and five of them have been sold for the hefty price of $114,464 each. (I think I'll walk.)

Do you believe that if you bought a golf club for $181,000 that it would improve your golf game? Perhaps, if it was a long-nosed putter stamped A.D. it might. The "A.D." stamp on the circa 18th century, long-nose putter is attributed to Andrew Dickson, the oldest known clubmaker to mark his clubs.

Do you want to buy a pricey motorcycle? Apparently the Dodge Tomahawk V10 Superbike is the most expensive at $700,000.

For all of you guitar players and musicians, how would you like to own a Fender Stratocaster guitar which comes with a price tag of $2.7 million?

A group of the world's renowned musicians signed this guitar, auctioned in Qatar in 2005, to raise funds for tsunami victims, according to a press release.

The signatures included Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Eric Clapton, Brian May and Jimmy Page, just to name a few.

It was bought by Qatar's royal family earlier that year, donated back to the charity, and sold again for $2.7 million.

Just in case you might be interested, the most expensive car is a 1954-55 Mercedes-Benz

W196 priced at a staggering $24 million.

I admit, I am a bargain shopper. I love discounts, clearance racks and reduced items. I have always said that even if I had a bunch of money, I'd still look for bargains and cut out coupons.

How much would you pay for a bottle of champagne or a cigar? Would you like to stay in that ritzy hotel? What would you do if you had the gold bicycle? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.