

ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXIX No. 10

December 2007

<http://www.WFSCstamps.org/>

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

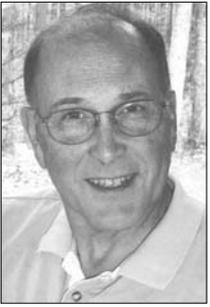
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's corner

A Tribute

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

The American Philatelic Reference Library in Bellefonte, Pa., is preparing a lasting tribute to a native of Wisconsin who rose to the highest level of international stamp exhibiting. The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs will take part in the ceremony next summer, and you can too.



The collector being honored is Mary Ann Owens, who never forgot her philatelic friends in

Wisconsin even though she achieved fame in the hobby while living in Brooklyn, N.Y. She died after a long illness in November 2005 at the age of 76.

History may record Mary Ann's major philatelic achievement as her appointment in 1979 as a member of the United States Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, a group that recommends to the postmaster general subjects that should be portrayed on American stamps. For most of her 19 years on the committee, she was one of only two real stamp collectors on the panel. When she retired in 1998, the USPS praised her as being "instrumental in guiding and elevating the standards and quality of the U.S. stamp program, which will stand as a lasting tribute to her."

Mary Ann's involvement in stamp collecting, from her various collections and exhibits to her

volunteer positions and honors, was mind-boggling.

She was, foremost, a pioneer who, in the past 40 years, revolutionized thematic stamp collecting and exhibiting. Prior to that time, thematic collecting consisted mainly of the amassing of stamps, arranged by country, depicting a given subject. Mary Ann's exhibits told stories.

Her exhibit on "The Elephant" was first shown internationally in 1971 and went on to win international gold awards. Her exhibit on the "Beautiful Blue Danube" also won international golds.

Mary Ann was named U.S. commissioner to the first thematic exhibition under the patronage of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) in Brussels, Belgium, in 1975. To promote participation, she published a series of detailed articles in four 1975 issues of *Topical Time*, the magazine of the American Topical Association, providing guidance for exhibitors. This resulted in her being selected as the U.S. representative on the FIP Thematic Commission, a position she held for more than a decade.

She had many other exhibits, among them "All About Umbrellas," a gold-winning display exhibit; "The Aspinwall Connection," which represented her growing interest in genealogy; and a single-frame exhibit on "The Badger," which has been shown at some Wisconsin stamp shows. Her exhibit "Ladybeetle, Ladybird, Ladybug" won a Large Silver at the Pacific Explorer international exhibition in Sydney, Australia, seven months before she died.



Mary Ann Owens.

Mary Ann received the ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist award in 1969, and served as ATA secretary 1976-79. She was selected in 1991 to receive the American Philatelic Society's John F. Luff award for outstanding service to philately, and in 1993 she signed the British Royal Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. She served from 1993-97 on the American Philatelic Society board of directors.

Oh, yes, she also was one of the founders of the Waukesha County Philatelic Society and is listed in the

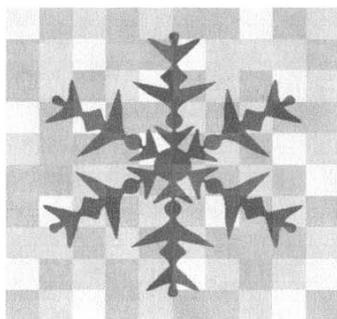
WFSC Hall of Fame.

When I was editor of *Stamp Collector*, I called her in New York several times to help clarify situations pertaining to United States stamp issues. When I was in charge of organizing Wiscopex 2004 in Iola, I asked her to speak during the show, and she ended up giving two

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Happy Holidays
From
Milwaukee Philatelic Society

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Jim Stearns, bulletin editor for the **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., summarized for his audience the content of a handout he picked up at an American Philatelic Society seminar in Bellefonte, Pa. Its provocative topic was "Why bother with any stamp issued after 1940? Aren't they all just discount postage anyway?"

Stearns said the author pointed out that 16 normal stamps issued since 1940, with a face value of \$10.35 have a Scott catalog value today of \$37.75. "However," he added, "if those same stamps are in your collection in some of the varieties listed... (they) would have a catalogue value of \$6,342.50."

He added, "Furthermore, if you had spent only \$1,634 from 1954 to 2001 on these stamps they would now catalog over \$1 million." The varieties feature odd perforations, tagging varieties and gum varieties.

Stearns commented, "Seems to me it would be worth bothering, and the author points out that many of these stamps are found in discount postage lots."

Interesting tidbits like this can spice up a club

newsletter and maybe even lead to follow-up items if the membership responds in some way. Encouraging dialog helps to invigorate a club.

* * *

Program ideas

The **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, implemented a formal program to get members involved in its meeting programs. At each meeting, a volunteer is sought to present a program at the next meeting on something he or she collects. It can be of any length, so the presenter won't feel intimidated. After the presentation, other members can show and tell items from their collections that relate to the meeting topic. "We are confident that our members will dazzle us with the depth of the collections that they possess and enjoy bringing them out to share," the bulletin editor noted.

Linda Brothen, president of the North Shore Philatelic Society, Milwaukee, also encouraged members to share favorite or mysterious items. "We've had some great spontaneous discussions sparked by an item that somebody brought in to show off or even ask questions about because you picked the item up somewhere and would really like to know more," she said.

Darren Mueller reported at a meeting of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society how he has connected geneology and postal history. He found that some of his ancestors were postmasters. He talked with people who knew them, and he has collected pictures and mail from their areas.

Brian Liedtke shared examples from his philatelic literature collection at a meeting of the **Waukesha County Philatelic Society**. Members were invited to bring examples from their own library to be part of the subsequent discussion.

In conjunction with the newly issued Polar Lights stamps, members of the **Waukesha County Philatelic Society** were asked to bring examples from their own collections of things that might be found in the night sky – including moons, stars, witches, bats and owls.

* * *

What others are doing

In its newsletter series, "My Favorite Stamp," the **Rockford (Ill.) Stamp Club** showed the non-denominated Earth stamp issued March 22, 1988, for the then-new 25c rate. It indicates that a favorite need not be rare and valuable.

Looking for a timely gift for a philatelic friend? Now is a good time to give a stamp club membership to a friend or family member, the **North Shore Philatelic Society**, Milwaukee, noted in its bulletin.

Information for "Clubs Are Trump" is gathered from club newsletters. Please send newsletters to Maurice D. Wozniak, 1010 Berlin St., Waupaca WI 54981.

Advertising payment notice

If you are advertising in *Across the Fence Post* (either as a dealer or club), please make sure your check is made out either to the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs or WFSC, and is sent to Advertising Manager Dave Carney, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarney1@new.rr.com).

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Club
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Germany Phil. Soc.
(Chap. 18)
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Across the Fence Post is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please contact the Central Office.

AFTP is published monthly September through April, and every other month May through August (10 issues per year). News of Wisconsin collectors, club news and gratis original philatelic features are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but prefers email if possible. Editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to submitted copy.

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Submission deadlines for editorial and advertising materials are for the 1st of the month preceding month of publication (i.e. Jan. 1 for Feb. issue).

All show calendar information, along with all other editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor AFTP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111. (youngblood@tds.net) phone: 715-467-4416.

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, AFTP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarney1@new.rr.com) phone: 920-687-9077. For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified and listings), request a copy from the advertising manager.



Wisconsin Christmas cinderellas celebrate state's rich dairy heritage

Wayne L. Youngblood

As a relatively new transplant to Wisconsin (about 12 years), it was hard for me to understand just exactly how deeply and passionately the dairy tradition ran in the state.

Even harder to understand (at least for my kids) was that until relatively recently it was illegal to transport margarine into Wisconsin. Their minds were full of images (and stories by locals) of bootleg margarine runs to Illinois.

So, it should come as no surprise that special cinderellas such as the one shown in Figure 1 were created to help promote the dairy industry. That label, printed in blue and gold on white paper, was produced by the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture and Markets. It was apparently produced in a booklet format. This example is perforated 12 1/2 at bottom. Nutritionally, of course, the label is only propaganda. The only naturally occurring vitamin in butter is vitamin A, but the label conveys a convincing message.

Since finding that label in an old collection, I've been able to locate related similar examples, both of which were produced by the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture to promote cheese, and both of which have a



Figure 1. A state propaganda label for promoting Wisconsin butter.

Christmas theme. All three labels would appear to have been produced in the late 1940s or early 1950s.

The Figure 2 example is an imperforate die-cut type that was printed in red and green and cream-colored paper. The design shows Santa eating a wedge of cheese, and the message promotes giving Wisconsin cheese for Christmas.

By the time the Figure 3 example was printed, production of the Christmas labels



Figure 2. A die-cut Wisconsin Christmas-related cheese label.

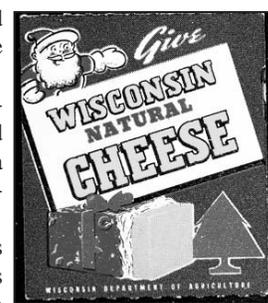


Figure 3. A more elaborate cheese label.

had become a little more elaborate. That example is

printed in red, green, yellow and cyan (blue), and is rouletted about 6 3/4 at top and bottom. Are there other examples out there?

Danepex single-frame competition announced

The Danepex Committee has decided to once again run the Single Frame Championship, to be held in conjunction with Danepex 2008. All collectors in Wisconsin and in affiliated Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs are eligible to enter. A maximum of 20 frames will be available for this competition. The Open Competition section will be limited only to Badger Stamp Club members. Deadline for entries will be March 15, 2008. For a prospectus or other details, contact the Danepex Exhibits Chairman: Charles Shoemaker, 209 Shiloh Drive, Madison, WI 53705 kenjico@charter.net, 608-827-6048.

Danepex 2008 will be held in Madison, Sunday April 20th, 2008, at its new location Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., across from the East Towne Mall.

Nominations sought for Philatelic Hall of Fame

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame. The deadline is Dec. 31, 2007. Required nominee qualifications are: 1) Contributions of purely local club nature shall not be the sole reason for selection to the Hall of Fame; and 2) A deceased philatelist may not be nominated or considered for selection until at least three years after his/her death. Send your nomination(s), together with a statement identifying the nominee, a short philatelic biography and the reasons why that person should be selected for the WPHF to: Chairman, WPHF Committee Arthur Schmitz, 3615 N. 47th St., Milwaukee, WI 53216. Questions can be answered by e-mail pescador@exec.com.

Only WFSC member clubs may submit nominations, and each nomination must be seconded by two other member clubs. The nominating club is responsible for making arrangements with the seconding clubs to provide those seconds. The nomination and seconds should be sent to the chairman in one mailing.

President's Corner, continued from Page 1

talks, allowing us to exhibit "The Badger," and donating items from her collection as gifts to those who attended the awards dinner. It was always a joy to see her walking down the aisle at a stamp show, even though she resorted to a cane to help her in later years. She was always gracious.

The APRL plans to designate a portion of its holdings as the Mary Ann Owens Thematic Reference collection. It will consist of worldwide thematic reference books and monographs, and in addition shelf markers, will cross-reference thematic periodicals. The ATA indicates that this resource includes 46 active ATA study units and periodicals published by 35 affiliates that have disbanded or merged with other units.

Ken Martin, APS deputy executive director, said the area will be dedicated in the present temporary library location at the society's headquarters, and when the APRL moves to a permanent location in the complex it will be re-established. A plaque will identify the collection.

The cost for the project, which includes shelving and additional resource material, is estimated at \$10,000. Some clubs in Wisconsin have contributed, and the Federation has sent \$1,000 to help the cause. The Federation money all came from fund-raising projects in conjunction with the 75th anniversary celebrations of the WFSC. More money remains in that fund, and the board hopes to be able to use it in some other special way.

Names of individuals or club donors of more than \$100 towards the establishment of the memorial area will be inscribed upon the designating plaque. Especially if your club has not contributed, I encourage you to consider mak-

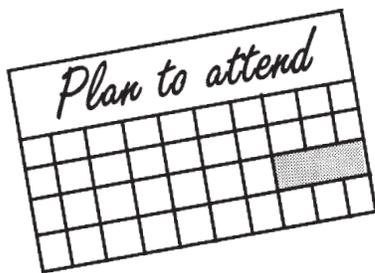
ing a donation before the end of the year. Both the APRL and the WFSC have IRS 501(c)(3) designations, so all contributions would be tax deductible for individuals.

The Federation hopes to charter a bus to Bellefonte if there is enough interest. The thought is to leave on Thursday, June 20, take part in events around the dedication on Friday and Saturday and return to Wisconsin on Sunday, June 23. At this point we have no idea of what the price might be; it would depend upon how many people are interested and variables such as the cost of motel rooms and meals. Rooms in Bellefonte range in price from \$50 to \$150 per night.

Martin suggested to me that the APS would offer tours of its impressive Match Factory facility and perhaps even include a seminar on a philatelic subject during the visit. In addition, the State College Philatelic Exhibition (Scopex) will begin that Saturday at the APS headquarters. It typically would include a bourse of 12-15 dealers and about 70 frames of exhibits, Martin said.

If you may be interested in joining a bus trip, please send a note to MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187 as soon as possible. We would like to determine the interest in such a trip before we commit to the expense.

I think it will be a great opportunity to share fellowship with other collectors, pay tribute to one of our number, tour the headquarters of the largest philatelic organization in the world, expand our interest and knowledge in the hobby and have a weekend of fun. [Editor's note: The annual weeklong Summer Seminar on Philately also will begin that weekend as well — another wonderful opportunity to meet and visit with collectors from all over.]



Show Calendar and Registry

List your show, bourse, auction or other event here!

Calendar listings are free for one WFSC member-club event per year. Classified advertising rates apply for all non-members and other events appearing in this section.

2007-2008 WFSC show schedule*

*Some dates and details may be subject to change, and there will likely be additional listings.

Feb. 10, 2008

**Janesville Annual Exhibition and Bourse
Janesville Stamp Club**
Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Pl.,
Janesville
Contact: Gary Wentworth
(608)-756-1380, wnstamps@aol.com

March 8-9, 2008

**ROCKFORD '08
Rockford Stamp Club**
Forest Hills Lodge, 9500 Forest Hills Rd.,
Rockford, IL
Contact: Tim Wait, 1718 Northrock Ct.,
Rockford, IL 61103
(815)-670-5869, t.wait@insightBB.com

June 21, 2008

**26th Annual Show and Bourse
Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club**
James Williams Middle School, 915
Acacia Ln., Rhinelander, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Larry Marten, 3295 Hancock
Lake Rd., Harshaw, WI 54529
(715)-282-5636, lfmarten@yahoo.com
or Bill Julian (715)-277-2692

June 28-29, 2008

**TRI-PEX Stamp Fair
ATA Chapter 5
and North Shore Phil. Society**
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So.
92nd St., West Allis
Contact: Robert Henak, NSPS, P.O. Box
170832, Milwaukee, WI 53217
(414)-351-1519, henak@execpc.com,
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

Feb. 17, 2008

**CENWISPEX '08
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**
JADECO Stamp and Hobby
North Point Mall, 200 Division St.
Contact: J.D. Manville, P.O. Box 845,
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715)-341-5555, jadeco@charter.net

March 15, 2008

**BAYPEX '08
Green Bay Philatelic Society**
Best Western Midway Hotel, 780 Armed
Forces Dr. (formerly known as Packer
Dr.), Green Bay, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Ray D. Perry
920-469-8925, fiveperrys@athenet.net

USPS History Offered Free

The official, 84-page history of United States Postal Service was published recently and is offered free, according to a news item in *Linn's Stamp News*.

To get a copy of the publication, *The United States Postal Service: An American History 1775-2006*, write to Megaera Ausman, U.S. Postal Service historian, at USPS Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W., Washington DC 20260-0012.

The article by Bill McAllister referred to the publication as "an

excellent compendium of the nation's mail service."

The publication includes historic photos, including New Deal art from post office lobbies and urban mail-delivery vehicles from horse-drawn carriages to today's vehicles.

The section on stamps mentions the newly released Forever stamp, and a section on the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee highlights the 50th anniversary of the formation of the group by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield in 1957.

March 1-2, 2008

**STAMPFEST '08
Milwaukee Philatelic Society**
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis
Contact: Carol Schutta, 10250 W.
Sharon Ln., #5, Milwaukee, WI 53225 -
(414)-464-6994,
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

April 12, 2008

**Wiscopex '08
hosted by the Outagamie Philatelic Society**
Fox Valley Lutheran High School
5300 N. Meade St., Appleton, WI
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus—
920-725-0798, or Verna Shackleton
corosec@sbcglobal.net

Closed Album – James B. Hale

Jim Hale died Nov. 4, 2007, at age 85. Jim lived in Madison, Wis., and was a longtime member of the Badger Stamp Club, where he was an avid supporter of BSC's youth group.

Jim also was an extremely active member of the Wisconsin Postal History Society, having served as vice president from 1969-73. Most notable, though, was his impressive approximate 25 years of service as editor of *Badger Postal History*, the WPHS's quarterly journal. Jim additionally edited several of the WPHS's numerous bulletins and authored his own book titled *History of Post Offices of Door County, Wisconsin*.

Jim devoted much time at the Wisconsin Historical Society compiling an inventory of its phil-

atelic holdings, which later became a WPHS publication. He was a prolific writer of articles related to Wisconsin postal history. He also wrote extensively for publications related to his employment as a wildlife research professional for the State of Wisconsin.

Jim became involved with stamp collecting at age 8 and throughout the years, exhibited his various collections at the local, state and national levels. He was a WFSC-certified judge and was inducted into the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame in 1994.

Jim was an enthusiastic, inquisitive and genuinely helpful individual, who will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

(Submitted by Karen Weigt on behalf of the Badger Stamp Club.)

Para..

Remember to patronize
Across the Fence Post
advertisers

2007

Stevens Point Stamp Bourses
Nov. 10 and Dec. 8
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
JADECO Stamp & Hobby
200 Division St.
Stevens Point WI
(715) 341-5555
jadeco@charter.net

12.07

R.H.O. Postal History and Stamps

Roger H. Oswald
2514 Sheridan Place
Manitowoc WI 54220
(920) 682-6793
rhoposthistory@comcast.net

12.07

Please share your knowledge with your fellow WFSC members

Write a feature
for
Across the Fence Post
today!

Grassroots campaign underway to Royal Post to place Britain's Iraq war dead on stamps

Wayne L. Youngblood

A campaign was officially launched Nov. 8 to replace the head of Queen Elizabeth on England's postage stamps with the faces of the soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq. The proposal, originally put forth in 2005, was met with rejection by Royal Post, so it has been put to the people by its promoters.

The Imperial War Museum, along with England's most important art charity, the Art Fund, is trying to persuade thousands – if not millions – of Britons to sign an online petition to convince Royal Mail to produce the stamps as a memorial to those who have died in the war. The stamps, designed by artist Steve McQueen, feature the faces of the war dead.

The proposal was first put to Royal Mail in 2005, but was put off, then rejected. The movement was recently resurrected after McQueen was told by Royal Mail that the idea couldn't be examined until at least 2009. McQueen responded by pointing out that Royal Mail was able to react within weeks by issuing stamps to celebrate England's Ashes win at

cricket and to commemorate Diana, Princess of Wales, soon after her death. Why couldn't the postal agency consider the memorial issue sooner?

The Art Fund and the museum hope that if enough public support is shown, the Post Office could be swayed.

McQueen was commissioned by the Imperial War Museum in 2003 to respond with art to the conflict – tapping into a tradition of war art that dates back before World War I and includes artists John Singer Sargent, Edward Bawden and Paul Nash.

McQueen regards the project as a collaboration with the families of the those who were killed. A total of 154 families agreed to take part, with only 19 refusing. Each family chose the photographs for the stamps. Some of the soldiers are seen in uniform, others are more informally dressed. Of the project McQueen said: "This is totally non-political. It is about people who did their job and they died unfortunately. The stamps are a very public way of commemorating the lives of people who served their country."



British artist Steve McQueen stands near his installation titled "Queen & Country," a work he was commissioned to do that places the likenesses of those British soldiers killed in Iraq on stamps.

The designs for the stamps now exist as an installation titled "Queen & Country" that has been bought for the Imperial War Museum by the Art Fund. However, McQueen regards the work in its present state as incomplete – until real stamps are produced and placed into use.

The release of stamps commemorating tragic events or unfortunate incidents is always a sticky situation for postal agencies. The stamps aren't "cheerful" and frequently send mixed messages.

The United States Postal Service, for example, has stead-

fastly refused to honor the anniversaries of tragic events due to their controversial nature. Even when it has planned commemoration, such as the stamp designed and planned to mark the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, those plans are frequently scuttled due to political pressure. The semipostal marking the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was released only after a great deal of public outcry.

The Art Fund and the Imperial War Museum recognize that if their proposal is to be considered seriously, it will only be after significant public pressure.

A letter from the editor: I need your help

I need your help.

For many years *Across the Fence Post* has been one of the strongest newsletters outside of the professional philatelic press, and we want to keep it that way! The publication has kept collectors informed on happenings in our hobby and has presented a number of enjoyable and entertaining features on all areas of our hobby.

However, submission of articles has tricked down to almost nothing, and the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs has expressed concern about the shrinking number of pages of the newsletter (now frequently only four).

If you are a dealer

Please consider advertising in *ATFP*. The publication is read by several thousand collectors each

month, and the advertising rates are very low, considering the focused audience you are reaching. Copies are distributed by various clubs in the federation and enjoy a tremendous pass-along afterlife. The revenue raised by advertising goes directly towards offsetting the printing costs of the publication. Our advertising manager Dave Carney will be happy to help. His email is dcarney1@new.rr.com.

If you are a collector

Please consider sharing a favorite cover, stamp or area of your collection with readers of *ATFP*. Collectors throughout the Federation enjoy reading the newsletter, and in some cases, making your interests known may actually help in locating items of interest for your collection or exhibit.

Or, if you are specialist in an area, please consider sharing your expertise with fellow members.

Even better, consider writing a regular column for the publication. I'll be happy to help. Our needs include modern U.S. stamps, varieties and postal history; first-day covers; topical features; and many other areas.

Although we're open to numerous types of material and features, items should not have appeared recently in any club newsletter. It's not that these are poor or otherwise unacceptable features, but they provide a level of duplication of information to WFSC members.

Club or chapter news

I've occasionally been asked why certain club news has not appeared in *ATFP*. There are sev-

eral reasons for this.

First, I do not receive copies of all club newsletters, but even if I did, I neither have the time to scan them all for what should be published, nor can I presume to know your needs. If you want or need something published, please submit it for publication. It's simple and painless.

President Maurice Wozniak writes the "Clubs are Trump" column for each issue. If he is not already receiving your club's newsletter, please place him on your mailing list. His address is as follows: **Maurice D. Wozniak**
1010 Berlin St.
Waupaca, WI 54981

Let's make 2008 another banner year for *ATFP*. Let's see your name in print!

— Wayne L. Youngblood, editor



Happy Holidays

From:

ATA Chapter 5

Central Wisconsin Stamp Club

North Shore Philatelic Society

Northwoods Philatelic Society

Oshkosh Philatelic Society

Outagamie Philatelic Society

Sheboygan Stamp Club

