

# ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXXII No. 10

December 2010

www.WFSCstamps.org

## Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

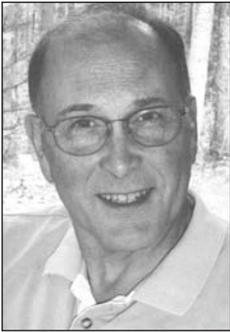
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

### President's corner

#### Christmas Present

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

My stamp files contain references to the efforts of Melvin R. Laird, a United States congressman from central Wisconsin, toward getting the United States Post Office Department to release a stamp for Christmas.



But, until I searched the Laird archives at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

library, I didn't know the extent of that effort or the role that Wisconsin people played in changing postal policy to introduce what has become the most-awaited issue annually.

Laird was a powerful politician who served in the Wisconsin Senate from 1946-52, in the House of Representatives 1953-69 and as secretary of defense 1969-73. He lives in Fort Myers, Fla.

During his term in the Pentagon, Laird ended the mili-

tary draft and earned the nickname, "the Father of the All-Volunteer Force." He also could be called the god-father of the U.S. Christmas stamp program because of his dogged pursuit – starting in 1958 – of a postal commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

In fact, I found out, he wanted the "baptism" of the Christmas stamp to be in Waupaca, where the dedicated agitation for a Christmas stamp began when a Catholic priest received a Christmas card from Australia with a stamp that portrayed the Nativity.

In his 1959 bill that called for a Christmas stamp, Laird included a provision that the stamp be "placed on sale at Waupaca, Wis., one day before it is made available to the public elsewhere." That part of his wish list never took place.

In fact, Laird's initial efforts met with a stone wall. The bill never got out of committee, and the USPOD told him, "It has long been the practice of the Post Office Department to refrain from issuing stamps of a . . . religious nature."

Later in 1959, Laird learned

that thousands of copies of his bill and 300,000 pieces of literature had been mailed from Waupaca to people throughout the nation who were interested in the cause. USPOD opposition slowly softened.

In 1962, the United States broke tradition and released its first Christmas stamp, which featured a decidedly non-religious wreath and candles. It was wildly popular.

The stamp had an initial printing of about four times the usual commemorative stamp production, but it wasn't enough. To fill the public demand, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing sent it back to press two more times. In all, nearly 892 million stamps (861.97 million) were printed.

Production of the second Christmas stamp, in 1963, exceeded 1.2 billion. The image this time was the National Christmas Tree on the White House lawn, another secular subject.

*President's Message is continued on Page 2.*



*The 1965 U.S. Christmas stamp depicted the angel Gabriel, somewhat of a compromise to Congressman Melvin Laird, who wanted a nativity scene.*



*Our nation's first Christmas stamp, released in 1962, featured a wreath. Although there was a "Christmas" inscription, the design was decidedly secular.*

## WFSC Correction and Notice:

### CORRECTION:

It has come to the attention of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (WFSC) that much of the information provided to the author of an article regarding Greg Bokelman in the February, 2010 issue of *Across the Fence Post* is inaccurate.

### NOTICE

Greg Bokelman does not represent WFSC in any way and is not authorized to solicit or accept any donations of money, philatelic material or any other items on behalf of the WFSC.

WFSC encourages anyone interested in making donations to youth philately to make the contribution or donation to WFSC's long-time Youth Director, MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

## Inside this issue:

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## Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

We are unable to present "Clubs are Trump" this month. Please look for it in the January 2011 issue. *ATFP* apologizes for the inconvenience.

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### Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations are still being accepted for the 2011 Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame, which recognizes prominent Wisconsin philatelists for their contributions to the hobby. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 31, 2010.

Qualifications required of nominees are: (1) Contributions of a 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 three years after his/her death.

Send your nominations(s), with a statement identifying the nominee, a short philatelic biography and the reasons why that person should be selected for the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame to Karen Weigt, Chair, Hall of Fame Committee, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562-4339 or [kweigt@tds.net](mailto:kweigt@tds.net).

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 chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee in one mailing.

*President's Message, continued from Page 1.*

Laird specifically wanted a Nativity scene.

John Gronowski, a native of Dunbar, Wis., in Marinette County, who had been Wisconsin state commissioner of taxation, took the office of postmaster general in 1963. He presided over the release of the 1964 Christmas stamps, the first se-tenant U.S. issue, which represented seasonal foliage. Unlike the previous two years' stamps, the designs did not include the label "Christmas."

Laird was fed up with the creeping commercialism of the holiday and dismayed that the reason for Christmas was ignored on this country's stamps. He resubmitted his bill and argued in a letter to Gronowski that issuing a Christmas stamp without religious significance was wrong.

The Christmas stamp in 1965 portrayed the Archangel Gabriel, "a symbol that is very definitely concerned with the birth of Christ," Laird noted, because in the Christmas story Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the son of God.

Sure enough, in 1966 the USPOD offered a fine-art Madonna and Child, a theme that has become common on U.S. Christmas stamps. For many years following, there were both



*Laird's Christmas stamp wish finally came true in 1970, when the USPOD released a "fine art" stamp that depicts the Nativity.*

secular and Madonna Christmas stamps released.

It wasn't the Nativity scene he had fought for, but Laird acknowledged it "certainly is an appropriate scene for a Christmas stamp." USPOD did, however, release our nation's first nativity scene stamp in 1970.

With his present from the post office in hand, Laird wrote in his office newsletter, "Much of the credit for our success in this endeavor goes to the women of St. Mary Magdalene's Parish in Waupaca for beginning the process that brought this about."

### Across the Fence Post Ad Rates (revised 1/06)

Type Size	Commercial Rate	Club Rate
A Full page (7 1/4"x 9 1/2")	\$42.00	\$33.75
B Half page (7 1/4" x 4 3/4")	\$26.25	\$21.00
C Large 1/4 page (4 3/4"x 6")	\$20.50	\$16.50
D Medium 1/4 page (4 3/4" x 3 3/4")	\$14.75	\$11.75
E 1/8 page (2 1/4" x 3 3/4")	\$7.50	\$6.00
F Econo Ad (2 1/4" x 2 3/4")	\$3.75	\$3.00
G Reduced Business Card (2 1/4" x 1 1/4")	\$2.75	\$2.25
H Back page (7 1/4" x 9 1/2")	\$57.75	N/A

*Please make checks payable to :W.F.S.C.*

## Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs officers

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Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club  
Polish American Stamp Club  
Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.  
American Air Mail Soc. (Billy Mitchell Chapter)  
Germany Phil. Soc. (Chap. 18)  
Italian American Stamp Club  
Milwaukee Phil. Soc.

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Chippewa Valley Stamp Club  
Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club (Rhineland)  
Wisconsin Valley Phil. Soc.

*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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Unless explicitly stated by an officer in conjunction with official WFSC business, opinions expressed by the editor or individual authors are not necessarily endorsed by the WFSC.

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 and all other editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor AFTP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111. ([wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com)) 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. ([dcarneyl@new.rr.com](mailto:dcarneyl@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.

# Exhibiting 101: Easy Entry – Non-competitive Exhibiting

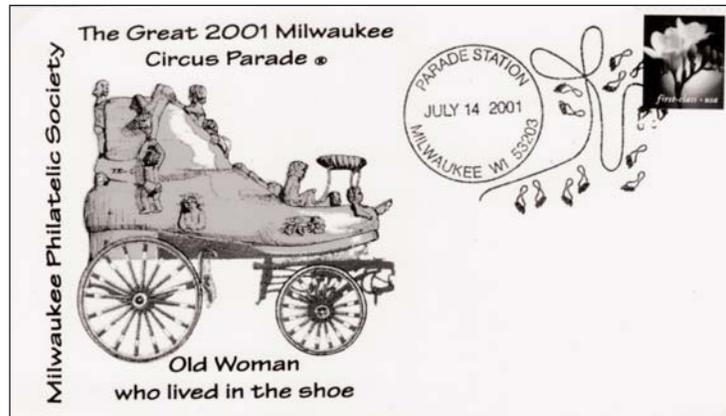
Robert R. Henak

For those of you who have considered exhibiting but are concerned about the work involved or afraid of what the judges might say, there is a simple and easy alternative: noncompetitive exhibiting. What's more, with Wiscopex coming up in April, you will have a prime opportunity to show noncompetitively and plenty of time to get your exhibit together over the long winter months ahead.

There are a number of benefits to noncompetitive exhibiting.

In a noncompetitive exhibit, you display whatever it is that you want to show, whether it is your collection of Mickey Mouse on C.T.O. (cancelled to order) stamps, early Wisconsin territorial covers or local stamp show ephemera. Quite often, our interests do not fit easily into established categories for competitive exhibits.

For instance, I have an exhibit of Milwaukee Philatelic Society Circus and Circus Parade covers. Although it clearly would qualify as an Illustrated Mail exhibit, the judges either did not know that the one time when I showed it compet-



*One of the author's collecting areas includes Milwaukee Society Circus and Circus Parade covers. Although shown competitively once, this subject lends itself quite well to non-competitive exhibiting.*

itively or I just did not do a very good job with it. In any event, it received a certificate. While I eventually plan to merge this into a comprehensive exhibit of MPS cachets and cancellations, I have higher exhibiting priorities right now, so I will show it non-competitively for the near future.

Exhibiting on a non-competitive basis also can be attractive to those who simply do not wish to be bothered with – or constrained by – the

technical rules for competitive exhibits. Even with the looser rules for Display exhibits, in terms of using some non-philatelic material, some exhibitors prefer to use more than the 35% permissible for Display exhibits. An example would be the stamp show ephemera exhibit I mentioned earlier. Likewise, some exhibitors wish to focus more on the writeup, with a story line overshadowing the philatelic material used to illustrate it. In competitive exhibits, of course, it is the philatelic material that must be preeminent, with the writeup in a supporting role. Non-competitive exhibitors need not follow those rules.

Non-competitive exhibiting also allows the exhibitor to tell his or her story to the world without fear of being judged. While competitive exhibiting certainly has its benefits, not everyone who likes sharing their particular love of philately publicly enjoys having a judge looking over their shoulder and critiquing their work.

Nor is there any reason why they should. Many of those attending stamp shows enjoy the exhibits without concern for the rules or the medal level. If an exhibit is on a subject they find interesting, they will enjoy it, and often marvel at the effort, appearance and content of even those exhibits that philatelic judges may be less than enthusiastic about.

At the same time, a non-competitive exhibitor can request comments and suggestions from judges and other exhibitors regarding how to improve the exhibit. While the non-competitive exhibitor may not

receive the formalized critique generally given to competitive exhibits, it is rare that a judge is unwilling to spend some time with the non-competitive exhibitor. As such, the non-competitive showing of an exhibit may be a good trial run for an exhibit that is intended ultimately to be shown competitively.

Finally, size can be a significant benefit to non-competitive exhibiting. Outside of youth exhibiting on a local level, adult competitive exhibits generally are limited to multiples of 16 8½- by 11-inch pages, that being the size of a standard exhibit frame. However, the major Wisconsin local shows (Wiscopex and Danepex), as well as Milcopex, allow for non-competitive exhibits of four or eight pages, along with those in multiples of 16 pages.

Some stories do not require a full 16-page frame of material to tell. For some, there simply is not the material available – or at least available to the collector – to fill an entire frame. An example is a non-competitive exhibit I plan to have at Wiscopex 2011 of Milwaukee Philatelic Society corner cards (pre-printed sender's address in the upper-left corner of the envelope). It likely would fill only four pages. I may eventually get it up to eight pages, but doubt it would fill a frame even if I could imagine ever showing it competitively. Of course, I may merge it eventually into my future MPS covers, cachets and cancellations exhibit.

So, even if you have not yet been bitten by the exhibiting bug to the extent of trying a competitive exhibit, I would encourage you to at least try testing the water with a non-competitive exhibit. You may find, as I did, that it permanently changes how you practice and enjoy your hobby.

Wiscopex exhibit applications will be available in January. If you have interest in this exciting but less stressful form of exhibiting, let me know and I will send you an application when they are available. Robert R. Henak, P.O. Box 170832, Milwaukee, WI 53217, 414-351-1519, [henak8010@sb-global.net](mailto:henak8010@sb-global.net).

## R U WISCONSCIOUS ?

**Wisconsin (wis-kon'shes) Having an awareness of the existence of the many places of interest, highlights, and activities that the state of Wisconsin has to offer.**



**The phrase "Are You Wisconsin?" is the catch phrase that we are using to publicize the upcoming National Topical Stamp Show 2011 (NTSS '11) which will be held right here in the Milwaukee area. The show will be held on June 24, 25, and 26, 2011 at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel, located at 175 S. Moorland Road, in Brookfield, Wisconsin, adjacent to interstate highway I-94.**

**Our goal is to show the visitors to the show from all across this nation just what the state of Wisconsin has to offer and we have numerous activities scheduled to do just that.**

# It Just so Happened...

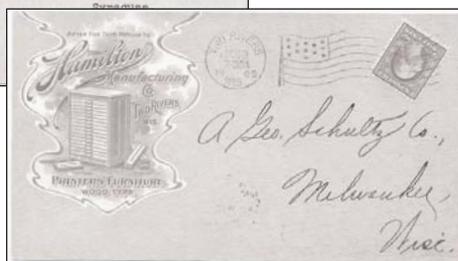
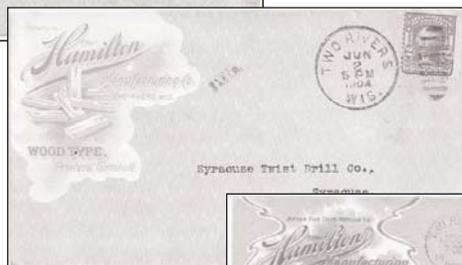
**Roland Essig**

Like many of you who got started on a new collecting area unintentionally, this happened to me as well.

Many years ago, attending our stamp club meeting, I came across an advertising cover. At the time our club had a part-time stamp dealer as a member and it was while looking through his "junk" box I happened upon a cover. The cover was from a printing firm using the design to promote their services. What caught my eye was the design in the corner. It was a line drawing of the envelope flaps you



Three of the author's favorite covers from a collecting area he happened into quite by chance: those covers showing the cornercards and equipment of printing companies



would see on the back side of an envelope. On each flap was listed one of the services they offered (Figure 1).

As I recall, that cover cost me a dollar. Not until getting home that evening and looking more closely at my purchase did I discover it was canceled Sept. 4, 1884. What made the cover special to me is that

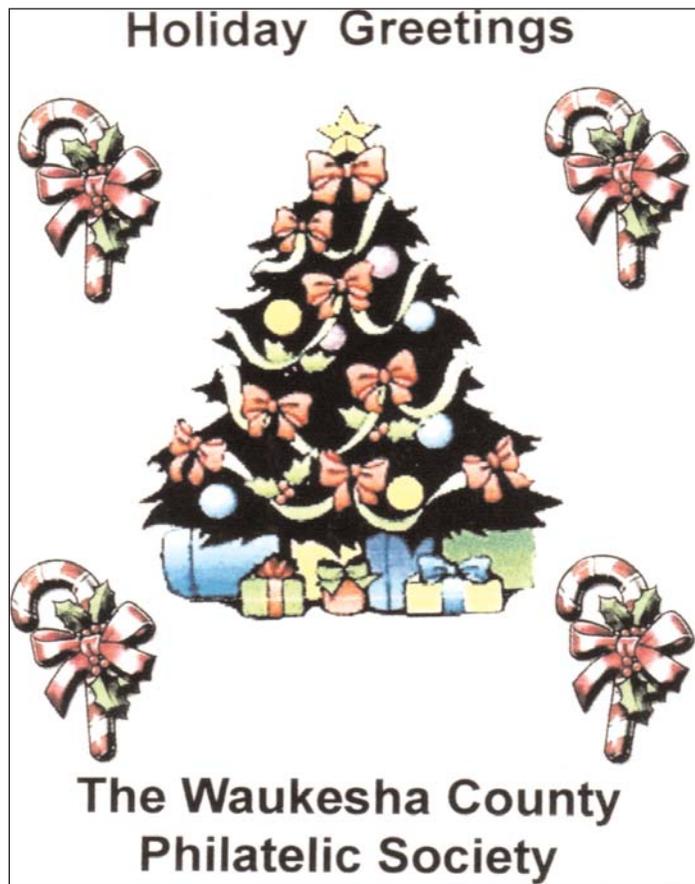
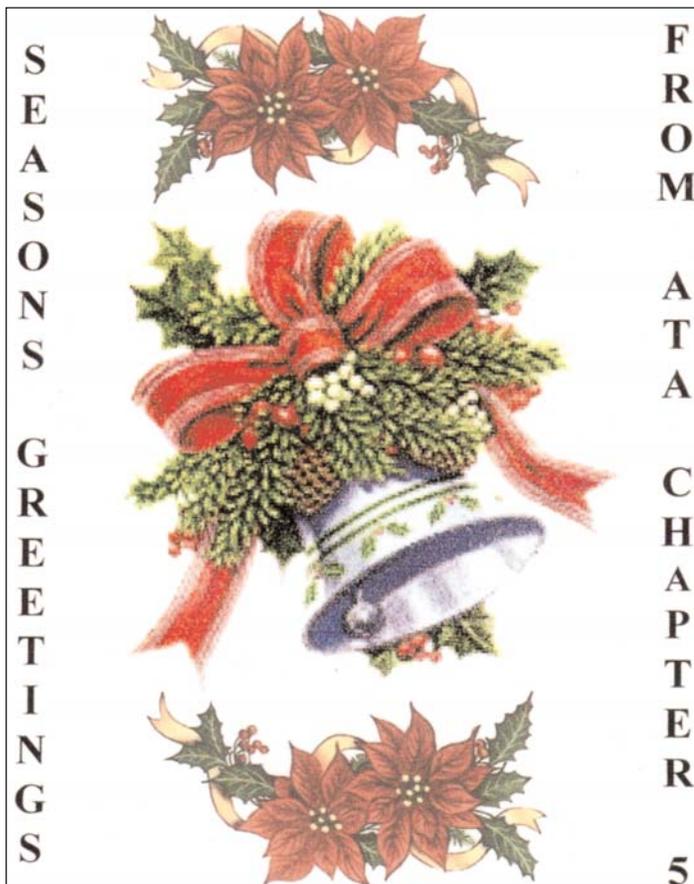
Sept. 24 (the date of the cancel) is my birthday. Also, I was a printer at the time (now retired). You guessed it, it got me started collecting printing advertising covers, especially those picturing printing machinery and items used in the trade. Three of my treasured covers (shown here) are from the Hamilton Manufacturing Company in Two Rivers, Wis. The company manufactured wooden type used in printing large items such as posters, where large metal type would have been too heavy and difficult to work with. The company also produced type cabinets for the storage of wood and metal type. The Hamilton Manufacturing Co. was started in

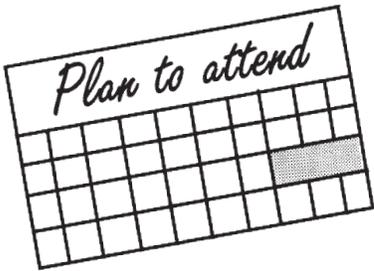
1880, and by 1891 employed 200 workers. Through the years the company has been sold several times but is still in existence. It maintains a museum of the company's wood type and equipment used to produce it. Upon visiting the museum several years ago I was told the firm still occasionally gets orders for wood type.

If you are ever in the area may I suggest you take the time and visit their museum.

The chance purchase of this cover by the author at a stamp club meeting led him to an entirely new collecting area.

Share your interests with fellow Wisconsin collectors. Write about a favorite item for the next ATFP!





# 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.

## 2010-2011 WFSC show schedule\*

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

### Feb. 13, 2011

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

### March 19, 2011

**Baypex '11  
 Green Bay Philatelic Society**  
 St. Matthew Catholic Church,  
 Multipurpose Rm., 2575 So. Webster  
 Ave. (parking in rear), Green Bay  
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Contact:** Ray D. Perry, 920-469-8925,  
[fiveperrys@athenet.net](mailto:fiveperrys@athenet.net)

### May 14, 2011

**Outapex '11  
 Outagamie Philatelic Society**  
 VFW Post, 501 N. Richmond St.,  
 Appleton, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Contact:** Al Marcus, 920-725-0798  
[allan.marym@hotmail.com](mailto:allan.marym@hotmail.com)

**Other major  
 non-WFSC shows  
 near Wisconsin  
 (below left and below):**

### March 5-6, 2011

**Stampfest '11  
 Milwaukee Philatelic Society**  
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall  
 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis  
 Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Contact:** Carol Schutta, 10250 W.  
 Sharon Ln., #5, Milwaukee, WI 53225  
 414-464-6994  
[harryncarolschutta@gmail.com](mailto:harryncarolschutta@gmail.com)

### April 2-3, 2011

**Wiscopex '11  
 (Annual Convention and Philatelic  
 Exhibition of the WFSC), hosted by:  
 Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**  
 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, 1001 Amber  
 Ave., Stevens Point  
**Contact:** Larry Glenser - 715-341-6767,  
[mcdillauto@att.net](mailto:mcdillauto@att.net)

### April 17, 2011

**Danepex '11  
 Badger Stamp Club**  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel  
 4402 E. Washington Ave. (across from  
 East Towne Mall), Madison  
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Contact:** Bob Voss, P.O. Box 35,  
 McFarland, WI 53558 - 608-838-1033  
[lestamps@charter.net](mailto:lestamps@charter.net)

### Dec. 11-12, 2010

**Prospect Heights, IL  
 MSDA Winter Stamp Show  
 Midwest Stamp Dealers Assoc.**  
 Lindner Conference Center, 610 E.  
 Butterfield Rd.

### Jan. 15-16, 2011

**West Allis, WI  
 Polarpex '11**  
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So.  
 92nd St., West Allis

### Dec. 4-5, 2010

**West Allis, WI  
 Frosteepex '10**  
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So.  
 92nd St., West Allis



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**While they last:  
 (I have several)**  
 A fault-free, F-VF  
 example, with virtual-  
 ly complete OG.  
 There is a bit of  
 paper adhered, so  
 this cannot be con-  
 sidered NH.  
 However, unused  
 OG price is \$275;  
 No-gum examples  
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 OG: \$50 (or, small fts,  
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 No Gum: \$15, post-  
 paid!

**Wayne Youngblood,**  
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 Always buying, selling  
 and accepting consign-  
 ments for Regency-  
 Superior Auctions. 06.10

# Holiday Greetings!

From the  
**Milwaukee**

**Philatelic Society**

and have a

**Happy New Year**



Keep Philately

Alive in 2011 by your  
 Active Participation

**I collect the Wisconsin Statehood issue  
 ...and I need your help**

**Wanted:** FDCs, first-day ephemera, USPOD  
 Announcements, errors, color varieties, usages,  
 event covers or anything else that  
 might enhance an exhibit.



**John Pare**  
 405 Perimeter St.  
 Mt. Horeb WI 53572 [pare16@mhtc.net](mailto:pare16@mhtc.net) 04.11

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# *Happy Holidays!*



## **Season's Greetings to all From:**

- Green Bay Philatelic Society
- Northwoods Philatelic Society
- Badger Stamp Club
- Sheboygan Stamp Club
- Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society