

ACROSS THE FENCE



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<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 Healthy Hobby

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

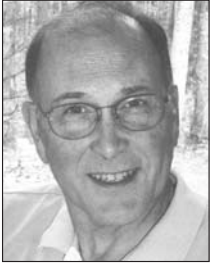
If you had lingering doubts about the health of stamp collecting, Washington 2006 should have dispelled them. The aisles of the vast bourse area were filled with people – a younger-looking crowd – a trend I have noted before. They were spending money at dealer booths, examining and photographing the rarities on display, filling the first-day ceremony halls to overflowing, perusing the thousands of pages of exhibits and sitting in at the lectures.

Early on the second day of the show, I happened to cross paths with Gordon C. Morison, a long-time acquaintance and former assistant postmaster general, who acted as executive director for the show. As we shook hands, I told him quickly that my initial impression was that he had crafted a great show.

With a mock pained expression, he complained, "Where did all these people come from? We can't handle them all!"

"You invited them, Gordon," I responded. "You have only yourself to blame."

Later the same day, we ran into each other again, and Morison explained that he wasn't kidding about the unexpectedly huge turnout. The show had run out of badges, he told me. He



had ordered 115,000 badges, more than the projected attendance, and had given them all out before the end of the second day of the eight-day show. A news story in *Linn's Stamp News* reported an official attendance of 226,817. David Failor of the United States Postal Service called the attendance phenomenal.

The USPS likewise underestimated the interest among this horde of collectors in its first-day ceremonies – although in my experience USPS officials often appear to put their seating estimates low while having on hand a sufficient number of the popular ceremony programs and first-day-canceled envelopes. In any event, the USPS set up chairs for 1,500 people. It looked like hundreds more were standing at the edges.

Among all those collectors milling about, I ran into about 10 from Wisconsin clubs.

Late on the third day of the show, I overheard two high-end dealers bragging to each other while standing in an aisle. What caught my ear was the enthusiastic comment of one: "This is unbelievable."

"What's unbelievable," responded the other, "is that I made an aggressive goal for the show on the second day."

"And I made a very optimistic six-figure goal on the first day!" said the first dealer.

In bragging contests, I realize, the last liar always wins, but these two guys were merely restating what was universally apparent: Washington 2006 was a tribute to the power of positive thinking. The financial woes that beset the previous international philatelic exhibition in the United States, the San Francisco Pacific '97 show in 1997, caused some observers to

predict that Washington, D.C., likewise, would be a bust. Instead, it revealed a hobby that remains popular, vibrant and accessible.

On a local level, you can profit from the lessons evident in Washington: Put on a positive face, embrace the collecting interests in your club, actively encourage stamp collecting and seek new members, and never doubt that this old hobby has plenty of life in it.

* * *

Even though my attendance at Washington 2006 was too brief, I managed to squeeze in a visit to the National Postal Museum, where the first part of the collection of Benjamin K. Miller was on display. Miller, a Milwaukee lawyer who died in 1928, began collecting stamps seriously in 1918 when he acquired an Inverted Jenny. By 1925, when he donated the collection to the New York Public Library, Miller had assembled the first complete collection of U.S. stamps.

Part of that extraordinary collection was a 1c Z grill. It was a thrill to see it on display. The Miller collection had been hidden away since a theft in 1977.

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75th Birthday Bash at Milcopex
It's WFSC's birthday
but it's your party!

Special Saturday seminars, Sunday brunch, and more!

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

The newsletter of the North Shore Philatelic Society of Glendal, Wis., recently started its 15th year of publication. Editor Howard H. Perlick patted the club on its collective back and reminded members to send in news of special events and personal experiences for publication.

Besides its reminder of club meetings (which should be a prominent part of every club's newsletter), the North Shore newsletter includes listings of coming stamp shows, USPS new issues, members' birthdays and information on events planned by other area clubs.

The purpose of most newsletters of WFSC member clubs should be to kindle interest in the stamp collecting hobby and drum up attendance at club meetings.

Rockford Stamp Notes of the Rockford Stamp Club (Ill.) makes good use of full-color printing. Forthcoming U.S. stamps, for example, are shown in full color. Also, a recent series on airmail stamps was illustrated in color. If you have the capability of using color, be sure to use it. Rockford also has instituted free want ads for members in its newsletter.

Some newsletters, such as the one from Central Wisconsin Stamp Club in Stevens Point and Port Edwards, is based largely on the minutes of the two meetings every month. The club makes good use of clip art for illustrations.

The Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club of Rhinelander includes a trivia question, which is answered the next month.

The Open Album of the NML Stamp Club reproduces cartoons and news articles with a mail theme, and the ATA Chapter #5 mailings include humorous items gleaned from various sources.

Program ideas

John Fisher, who has been manager of the main post office in Milwaukee for 15 years and who is a member of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, gave an insider's view of the post office. His talk was summarized in the *Milwaukee Philatelist* newsletter.

Did you know, for example, that 80% of the mail is untouched by human hands, except your deposit and the carrier's delivery? And Fisher said Italy is known as the "Black Hole" of mail delivery because so much is lost without a trace.

"My Collecting Passion" is the dramatic billing for a members'

show-and-tell program at the Waukesha County Philatelic Society.

"Say the Magic Philatelic Word — and Win!" started with the Waukesha County group and spread to ATA Chapter #5. Members bring stamps, covers or other philatelic items and say a few words about them, being sure to use philatelic terms in the description. A moderator has a secret list of more than 50 terms, and if a presenter uses one of the terms he or she wins a prize ("stamp bucks" or raffle tickets, for these clubs). With a variety of items, members' chances of saying a secret word are enhanced

What others are doing

At the Kenosha Stamp and Cover Club, Serge Logan was elected vice president for his fourth term, and Fred McBeth was elected secretary.

Clete Delvaux, editor of the *Green Bay Philatelic Society Newsletter*, was surprised he had eight entries in his St. Patrick's Day challenge. The challenge was for members to bring 10 face-different green stamps to the April club meeting. But he found that some members didn't know what "face-different" meant. Members in our clubs have varying levels of

sophistication, and program planners might want to include some basic instruction or question-and-answer sessions to help beginners feel included. The Waukesha County Philatelic Society had a recent program on the basics of soaking stamps, for instance.

The Northwoods Philatelic Society of Iron Mountain, Mich., netted about \$200 from a Felch Centennial cover project and plans to use the profits to buy philatelic resources for the North Dickinson School library, an investment in the future. The project also attracted a new club member from the Munising area farther north.

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

President's Corner, from Page 1

You can see the first part of the Miller collection, with stamps to 1894, for awhile yet. In fact, the other 1c Z grill that has been in the news the last few years was to be added to the Miller display after Washington 2006. The second part of the Miller collection will be on display at the museum from Nov. 5, 2007, to Jan. 12, 2009.

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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 262, Iola WI 54945-0262. (yngblood@athenet.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. (dcarney@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.



WFSC Announcements

2006-07 SHOW/BOURSE/MEETING INFO FLIER

The WFSC Show/Bourse/Meeting flier will be updated and sent with the September issue of *ATFP*. This sheet is read by most collectors throughout the state.

If you want your show, bourse or meeting listing to appear on the list (covering events through the summer of 2007), send details – no later than Aug. 1, 2006 – to Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562-4339 (608-836-1509) or e-mail karenweigt@earthlink.net. Include a contact name, address, phone number and e-mail address. The events calendar will also be published on the WFSC Web site.


Prospectus available

The exhibitor prospectus for Milcopex 2006 is available. The show will feature up to 200 16-page exhibit frames of all types of philatelic material.

Milcopex, the annual show sponsored by the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, is a qualifying show for the American Philatelic Society's World Series of Philately. The show will be held Sept. 15-17, in the Baton Rouge room of the Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport Hotel.

Other features of Milcopex 2006 will include a 40-dealer bourse and the annual convention of the Mobile Post Office Society.

For more information about the show, or for an exhibitor prospectus, please write to Robert Henak, Exhibits Chairman, Box 170832, Milwaukee, WI 53217-0832, or by email (henak@execpc.com). The club's website is found at www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org.



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11-06

MIKE LYBARGER

JOINS WFSC SPEAKERS BUREAU

Please take note of this addition to our Speakers Bureau listing. Mike is prepared to speak on the following four topics:

- (1) How to identify CTO stamps
- (2) German inflation issues 1918-1923
- (3) How not to invest in stamps
- (4) What's in the catalogue?

Mike can be contacted to present a program for your club by writing to him at 629 Sheldon St., Madison, WI 53711, or by contacting him by phone at 608-238-3893. He prefers Saturday afternoon or early evening weekday meetings, especially during the winter months. Mike also prefers to restrict his travel to within 150 miles of Madison, unless some overnight accommodations are offered. Further, he would appreciate reimbursement for gas and costs involved for photocopying handouts.

We welcome Mike to our Speakers Bureau. If you'd like your name added to our bureau listing, contact: Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562, 608-836-1509, karenweigt@earthlink.net.

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STAMP SHOWS

	2005	2006
January	22-23	21-22
May	14-15	6-7
August	27-28	19-20
December	3-4	2-3

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Exit I-894 & Greenfield or I-94 & 84th Street
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Joining with Juniors

By MaryAnn Bowman

KIDSfest, a family-oriented weekend of fun, entertainment and hands-on activities was held at the State Fair Park Expo Center in Milwaukee, April 8-9. The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs was there! Stamp collecting was highlighted in a positive way and volunteers worked to introduce our hobby to thousands that may never have thought of stamps as a hobby for their children.

The booth was sponsored and paid for by WFSC. As a not-for-profit organization, fees were considerably less than those of commercial ventures at the show, though still expensive for a small group. A monetary gift that had been earmarked for youth activities was tapped for the financial resources needed to undertake this outreach program.

Was it a success? You be the judge! The booth location was great – located next to the Jelly Belly Candy Company (giving away free samples), and across from the Mad Scientist, with ongoing demonstrations. Steady traffic passed by throughout the show (attendance was estimated at more than 20,000 fathers, mothers and children).

The 10- by 10-foot booth was decorated with stamp posters. An eight-foot table across the front of the booth had just enough room for a tri-

Joining With Juniors continued on Page 4

Frederick L. Ericksen 1922-2006

Known sometimes as "Fearless Fred," Frederick L. Ericksen, longtime member of the Fond du Lac Stamp Club closed a well-worn album April 21. Fred also was a member of both the Oshkosh and Ripon philatelic societies for many years.

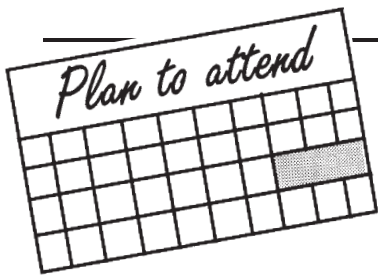
Fred began his philatelic activities as a youngster at the old Fond du Lac YMCA Stamp Club. His father's automotive business provided an unending source of used stamps from letters and packages.

While Ericksen's philatelic interests throughout his life covered a wide variety of areas, his later years were focused on exhibit-oriented collections of stamps featuring the orchid. As a past president of the Fond du Lac Men's Garden Club, this activity probably suggested the direction of his last philatelic concentration.

Mr. Ericksen was long acquainted with Fond du Lac's heavy-hitter collectors, including Philo and Elmer Foote and Dr. E.V. Smith. He was a past president of the Fond du Lac Stamp Club and served the WFSC as East Central Region Vice President (1984-96). He also served as delegate to many WFSC meetings and was inducted into the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame. In later years, Mr. Ericksen participated as the club's youth leader.

Truly, an important space in the Big Album has now been filled.

(submitted by the Fond du Lac Stamp Club)



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.

Special event!
Aug. 24-27
APS Stampshow '06 is coming to Wisconsin's back yard!
 Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, Ill.
Contact: APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 www.stamps.org

September 15-17
Milcopex '06
Milwaukee Philatelic Society
 Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, WI
Contact: Art Petri, 3754 S. 67th St., Milwaukee, WI 53220 (414-327-4320) www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

September 30
Wausaupex '06
Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society
 Wausau Labor Temple, 318 S. 3rd Ave., Wausau, WI (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
Contact: WVPS, Box 71, Wausau, WI 54402-0071 (nelsojm@yahoo.com)

Oct. 28-29
TOSAPEX '06
Wauwatosa Philatelic Society
 Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis, Wis.
Contact: John Fagan, Box 13102, Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0102

November 4
Monroe Stamp and Postcard Show
Monroe Stamp and Postcard Club
 United Methodist Church, 2227 4th St., Monroe, WI (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
Contact: Earl Button, 1214 2nd St., Monroe, WI 53566 (ebutton@tds.net) (608-328-2827)

Support Philately & WFSC members Use stamps Wherever possible!

Feb. 11, 2007
CENWISPEX '07
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club
 JADECO Stamp and Hobby, North Point Mall, 200 Division St., Stevens Point, Wis.
Contact: J.D. Manville, Box 845, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715-341-5555) (jadeco@charter.net)

March 31, 2007
OUTAPEX '07
Outagamie Philatelic Society
 Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond St., Appleton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus, Box 11, Appleton, WI 54912 (maram@tds.net) (920-725-0798)

U.S. Stamp identification puzzler

How well do you know your country's stamp designs?



The illustration at left is enlarged and taken from a U.S. stamp design. Your job is to correctly identify the stamp (by issue and date of release) to win a prize. All correct entries win. Please send all entries to: Stamp Identification Puzzler Wayne Youngblood, Box 262, Iola, WI 54945-0262. Answer to appear in the Sept. AFTP

Juniors, continued from Page 3
 fold table display, free literature and two youth-oriented games. Most popular was an electronic circuit board game that matched topical collecting subjects to postage stamps depicting them. Kids of all ages were attracted to the stamps, and even the youngest was able to work the game board if an adult or older child read the stamp collecting subjects. Those completing the activity were given either a packet of stamps or a USPS coloring book. Many stopped to pick up the free literature that included *Mekeel's "Youth Center,"* the USPS *Introduction to Stamp Collecting* booklets, the ATA's *Mini-Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting* and other informative brochures. Also at the table was an "Information Request" sheet, which visitors could fill out to request information about Stamp Camp, the Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge program and the location of local stamp clubs. Of course, there also was the occasional person who had a collection and wanted to know how to dispose/sell it.

I also presented a hands-on activity both days in the Travel Pavilion, one of six specific-themed areas. Children colored and created an ethnic doll (top and bottom) with the mid-section of the doll reserved for a four-by-six-inch file card upon which they could hinge stamps of their choosing from the country of the ethnic doll chosen. The activity was actually geared for the eight- to 12-year-old attendees, but most of the participants in this activity were younger and unable to hinge the stamps themselves. As a result, on the second day, I had pre-made some cards so that they would be ready to go if needed. The activity received a lot of favorable comments from the parents accompanying the kids. There were several personally rewarding moments, such as when Gina Ritter, a former Junior Philatelists of America member introduced herself. Now a mother herself, she recalled fondly helping me out at the JPA table at Milcopex shows. I was especially pleased when Ellice Miller's sister came up and introduced herself. Ellice had been featured in one of these

columns many years ago when she was exhibiting flowers. Her *How Writers Use Flowers to Interpret Their Ideas* was shown at Pacific '97. I lost contact with her when she went to college but am happy to report that she is now a successful career-oriented young lady. Then, too, there was a mother and daughter who stopped by and the daughter was interested in the stamp display. She was quite surprised when her mother admitted to having an album of stamps and to being a collector. The mother promised to show her daughter the stamps when they got home – perhaps the start of another new philatelist. One of the show organizers stopped by to inform me that her son had visited my booth the day before. At home she tried to get him to talk about what he had seen and done at the show, but without much success until he brought out the packet of stamps he had received and started to "play" with them. Needless to say, I gave that mother another packet of stamps, and a few other special items I brought along for the occasional child who shows an exceptional interest in stamps.

How do you judge the success of the event? Is it by the number of stamp packets given away? The contacts made? Community service? Personally rewarding moments? I had the opportunity to talk to the show organizers, since, of course, they want to have us back at next year's show. I shared my concerns about the costs of funding such a venture with our small treasury. I also addressed the possibility of soliciting other hobby-related groups as a way to encourage children to explore other (perhaps more sedentary) interests and hobbies. I can envision groups promoting coin collecting, rock hunting, model railroading and a host of other specialties. I also suggested that if the space within the exhibition area was too expensive for small groups such as ours, that they might think in terms of allowing table displays in the wide hallways of the convention center and charge a smaller table rental fee. I don't know whether any of the suggestions will be taken seriously, but I can see advantages to including other hobby groups at KIDSfest.

So, What's a Website For, Anyway?

by Steve Kluskens
WFSC Webmaster

I'm pleased to take over operation of the WFSC website, www.wfscstamps.org as Webmaster, in this, our 75th year. I'm impressed with the foresight of the organization to have a site with such a long history (web-wise), and with the diligent work prior webmasters have put into the content.

Though I do this sort of thing for a living, I'm not one who thinks everybody needs a website. They're handy for volunteer organizations because they're a cheap way to reach out to new members and communicate with current ones.

If, for instance, a parent wants to find a local stamp club to encourage a child's burgeoning interest, the most likely method is to type a few words into a search box on the computer at home.

Take "Green Bay Stamp Club," for example. Viola! In my favorite search box, the Green Bay Stamp and Coin Show comes up No. 1, a page from our own *Across the Fence Post* comes up No. 2 and a chapter of the AFDCS is No. 3. It can be the same story for a lucky new retiree who finally has some time to take the albums down from the shelf and wants some socialization to replace the office.

For current members, websites are a great way to fill in the blanks between meetings. You can check to see if that bus trip is still going, or which time slots haven't been filled to hold down the club table at the next stamp show. Was there an error in the last newsletter? Correct it on the website; at least a few will see it before the next meeting.

How many people will see the website? That depends on how up-to-date you keep your web page. If the webpage always has current info, word gets around and members will go to it for current information. Search engines will actually push your page up the list if it's been modified recently.

That's where I come in. I will post your information on your club

page within a couple days of receiving it — even sooner if you mark it "urgent!"

Please Email your club's information to me if you can (stevek@mediaprodevelopment.com). Mail it with commemorative stamps if you can't (N21531 Chapman Road, Niagara, WI 54151).

That way, when someone in your area types in your town's name and "stamp club," they'll find you and show up at your next meeting. Or, when a collector searches for "Wisconsin commemorative cachets," they'll be looking at your club's current project, with information on how to order one.

If you peek at the website now, you'll see I've made some changes to it. Web design evolves rapidly, so I've chosen a minimal, information-oriented look to hold us until we get

fancier. This is helpful for keeping the attention of users who connect via telephone dial-up; such pages typically load 4-5 times faster now.

I've built keywords into every club and dealer page, specific to that club or dealer. Keywords are invisible to users, but most search engines use them to know what a

"I will post your information on your club page within a couple days of receiving it — even sooner if you mark it 'urgent!'"

page is about. Now they know where your club is located and what it's about.

If you can think of keywords I might not have considered for your club page, such as a regional name like "Fox Valley," please let me know.

I'm very proud that the WFSC website meets the latest standards of the World Wide Web Consortium, the folks who decide where the web is headed.

There are few sites out there fully XHTML 1.1 compliant (you can tell it's the latest: it starts with an 'X'), but the WFSC site is one of those. This means it will weather gracefully the next decade of changes in computers.

All the email addresses that appear on the site are masked from the little programs spammers use to run through the web automatically to harvest email addresses (fortunately, the little monsters don't read like we do, so the addresses look the same to us). This means if you ask me to put your email address on our website, you won't get any more spam because of it.

I've had my email address out on websites for two years using this mask, and I've received two pieces of junk email in that time. When the spammers learn how to break it, I'll know it and I'll change it.

Thank you for your time, and please, send me updates for your club page!

75 and Still Alive — Let's Party!

Special WFSC celebration to be held in conjunction with Milcopex '06

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs is continuing its 75th birthday celebration with special events at Milcopex '06 on Saturday and Sunday of the show.

On Saturday, the WFSC will present a continuous scheduling of seminars and workshops in one of the meeting rooms. There will be a little something for everyone. Six different offerings are being planned, from Basics of Stamp Collecting, Craft Projects Using Stamps (a make-it take-it workshop with all materials provided), two stamp games that are take-offs of popular television shows and one yet-to-be announced specialty program.

A new activity will offer free stamps to WFSC members who come to the show with their albums. They will be able to keep any stamps for their U.S. and/or foreign albums that they find while going through accumulations of stamps — the only requirement is that those stamps must be

mounted in their albums at the show. Find one — mount one! Seating is limited, and reservations must be made to "hold" a spot. Help will also be available to identify stamps (either ones you may bring or ones that you find). Bring your albums and favorite hinges or mounts.

All Saturday events will be 30-45 minutes in length to allow visitors to enjoy the exhibits, dealers and other Milcopex activities.

A Sunday Buffet Brunch, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a special discounted price of \$20 will be offered to members. Club tables of eight members/spouses are being offered as well. The program will celebrate the 75 years of WFSC history, honor the WFSC Hall of Fame members and recognize Karen Weigt, the long-serving WFSC secretary who has recently stepped down from that position.

A small "live" auction, as well as a few silent auction items are

planned for those in attendance at the brunch. Attendees also will receive special gift and souvenir items. Seating is limited to 100. Make your reservations early.

WFSC members are invited to stop at the WFSC Society table during the show to pick up a free gift. Raffle tickets will also be available, with different items being offered on Saturday and Sunday.

All WFSC 75th anniversary celebrations are being held in conjunction with Milcopex and are open to all Wisconsin stamp collectors and WFSC members. Milcopex will be held September 15-17, with Federation activities taking place on the 16th and 17th. The show will be held at the Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 4747 S. Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, Wis.

For further information or reservations, contact MaryAnn Bowman, Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

MILCOPEX 2006
SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2006
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henak@execpc.com

BOURSE APPLICATION

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WAUKESHA, WI 53189-9035

DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WILL BE PORTRAYED BY TERRY R. KUTZ. HE WILL BE PRESENT FRIDAY AFTERNOON, SATURDAY ALL DAY AND SUNDAY AFTERNOON. HE WILL AUTOGRAPH CACHETS AND WILL BE DRESSED AS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. THIS WILL BE A REAL TREAT FOR THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS. YOU WILL FEEL AS THOUGH YOU HAVE TALKED TO DR BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIMSELF.