

ACROSS THE FENCE



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Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

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

President's corner

What a Party!

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Maybe it was the festive balloons at the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs table at Milcopex.



Maybe it was the series of raffles for stamp collecting-related prizes we held at our table during the last two days of the show.

Maybe it was the delightful little live auction of special items we held for the 40 people who joined us for our 75th anniversary celebration luncheon on Sunday.

Or maybe it was the show itself, starting with a talk by the man who restructured the Harley-Davidson Motor Co. into the icon it is today, the dynamic presence of a Benjamin Franklin portrayer, the strong philatelic exhibits, the mix of dealers and the chance to hobnob with other participants in this fun hobby of ours.

Whatever the reason, the Federation celebration at Milcopex was a joy.

I did have a twinge of disappointment in recognizing the departure of Karen Weigt after 21 years of service as secretary to the WFSC. Thanks to the generosity of several Federation board members, we were able to present her with a crystal vase as a token of our appreciation for her service. Karen will remain in committee positions.



Karen Weigt (left) accepts a special WFSC award from President Maurice Wozniak (right), at the 75th birthday celebration of WFSC held at Milcopex '06.

Also, I'm always sorry that more collectors don't make it a point to attend shows. Milcopex typically is the largest in the state and is part of the World Series of exhibiting, from which the nation's best stamp exhibit is selected every year.

The appeal of Milcopex might have dimmed some after a heady summer of an international show in Washington, D.C., and the American Philatelic Society's Stampshow in Rosemont, Ill., but it had a lot to offer. Also, collectors must support their events or risk losing them.

Enough of that. I hope everyone else at the show enjoyed it as much as I did.

MaryAnn Bowman single-handedly organized all the Federation events at Milcopex, and her car trunk and back seat were jammed with cartons of prizes and giveaways when she arrived at the show.

A highlight of the Sunday luncheon was a brief auction conducted by Ellis Bromberg, who also acted as master of ceremonies. His wife, acting as an assistant, was a delight, start-

ing by turning pages in a philatelic history book and eventually modeling a stamp-design blanket as the bidding soared.

We had more than the usual attention at our Federation table, where MaryAnn had prepared a succession of raffles. Some were single items, such as a stamp album or a United States

President's Corner continued on Page 3

To Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs:

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for recognizing my years of service with the WFSC. The event that took place at the WFSC's 75th anniversary luncheon held at Milcopex will always be a very memorable experience for me.

Thank you so very much for the award certificate and crystal bud vase. I will treasure these items as I treasure the many friendships I've enjoyed throughout the years.

Your thoughtfulness went far above and beyond any expectations and I look forward to my continued association with the WFSC (although to a lesser extent) and many more years of fellowship with our great Wisconsin philatelists.

— Karen Weigt

Inside this issue:

- 1...President's Corner
- 2...Clubs are Trump
- 2...Reference copies are invaluable
- 3...Joining with Juniors
- 3...Hall of Fame Nominations sought
- 4...Obituary - C. Dorance Gibbs



Time to Come Alive!
THE WFSC IS 75!

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Auctions continue to be popular features at stamp club meetings.

The death of the dealer who supplied stamps for the successful **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club** auctions (see page 4) set the club scrambling to find a replacement supplier – and spreading out the planned frequency of the scheduled auctions using the last box of stamps he provided.

Auctions needn't be large to be successful. At the **Wauwatosa Philatelic Society**, three- to five-lot auctions seem to be the norm.

And, at the **Waukesha County Philatelic Society**, the "Stamp Buck" auction is popular. Members are awarded Stamp Bucks for their participation in club activities and can spend them at an auction prepared by the club. For example, in September, members could earn Stamp Bucks by donating up to three items that could be used as door prizes at meetings.

* * *

Program ideas

To complement a program of the American Philatelic Society slide show on "Collecting First-day-ceremony programs," members of the **Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club**

were asked to bring their own copies of programs and talk about their experiences at first-day ceremonies. Member involvement is always a good idea.

Members of the **Waukesha County Philatelic Society** were asked to bring examples from their stamp collections to illustrate a list of categories enumerated in its *The Mail Chute* newsletter. Among the categories included were "Explore Outermost Space," "Catch the Coolest Rides" and "See Amazing Creatures."

Using a supply of donated packages of stamp mounts, divided more-or-less evenly into "grab-bags," members of the Central Wisconsin Stamp Club have a chance to win one in a drawing at each meeting.

In keeping with a "Brag Night" program, the newsletter of the **Green Bay Philatelic Society** trumpets stamp collecting as the world's most popular hobby – and supports that audacious claim with a report by the Universal Postal Union that 30 million collectors worldwide spend \$10 billion per year in pursuit of their hobby.

* * *

What others are doing

To eliminate a conflict in which

two clubs scheduled shows on the same day, the Central Wisconsin Stamp Club voted to change the date of its show to Feb. 18, 2007.

The **Northwoods Philatelic Society** of Iron Mountain, Mich., has donated copies of a recently published *Stamp Collector Encyclopedia* to the North Dickinson Schools and the Dickinson County Library. The society was instrumental in securing a \$500 Wal-Mart grant that allowed the church where the club meets to obtain a television-DVD setup that

can be used for club programs.

Eight people from the **Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club** took a tour of the city's downtown post office, led by Postmaster Karen Garber. The tour included the vault, where stamps are kept and an inventory is done daily.

The **Outagamie Philatelic Society** is planning a celebration in January for the club's 65th anniversary.

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

Reference copies of stamps are invaluable

by Wayne L. Youngblood

If you look for scarce varieties that can be found in common accumulations, never underestimate the value of less-than-perfect reference copies of scarcer types, which can be purchased at a fraction of the cost of better examples.

The stamp shown in the accompanying illustration is Scott No. 500, the scarce Type Ia die type, found only on two flat plate-printed 2c stamps of the Washington-Franklin series. These include 482A (imperf) and 500 (perf 11). The current values of canceled examples of these stamps are \$50,000 and \$240, respectively.



As you can see, the pictured stamp has a natural straight edge at left and does not possess the finest centering possible by any stretch of the imagination.

What the illustrated stamp does show clearly, however, is the unique distinguishing feature of the Type Ia variety – the almost uniform and strong lines in the toga rope and button (shown in the enlargement). The stamp also serves as a solid reference to the peculiar deep rose shade that all Type Ia stamps have. Having reference examples that show these features will help you find other examples.

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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.



Joining with juniors

A holiday story

By MaryAnn Bowman

It is almost holiday time! Plan an evening of cookies, hot chocolate and a good read-aloud story to ring in the holidays.

A book that graces my literature shelf is titled *Aunt Olga's Christmas Postcards*, written by Kevin Major. The description from the inside front cover reads: "Great-Great Aunt Olga has the most remarkable collection of Christmas postcards. She's ninety-five, and many of the cards come from very long ago. The Yuletide season is the occasion to share her postcards and her Christmas memories with her favorite niece, Anna. Decked out in red, Aunt Olga is not averse to a little fun over tea, as she teaches Anna how to write her very own Christmas rhymes."

In addition to the whimsical drawings by Bruce Roberts, the pages contain illustrations of historical postcards from the author's collection. A note at the end of the book challenges the reader to create a homemade postcard to send to a relative or friend.

Whether you read the story or not, making a homemade postcard can be a fun activity for kids of any age.

Start by cutting a heavy piece of paper or card stock to the size of a regular postcard (most are 3 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches). Decorate the front of the card.

On the reverse, draw a line to divide the card into half, using the right half for the address and stamp. Write a short message on the left side of the card. Many youth and adults are well versed in scrap booking and rubber-stamping techniques. These could make attractive cards.

Philatelic-Related Christmas Song

What would a holiday party be without music? If you are having a children's stamp club Christmas party, they might enjoy singing this song:

Our Friendly Mailman

(To the tune of *Frosty the Snowman*)

Our friendly mailman
Has a big bag on his back
With a billion cards and some packages
Twice the size of Santa's sack!

Our friendly mailman
Works in ice and sleet and snow
He comes without fail

President's Corner, from page 1

Postal Service year collection. Others were groups of related items, such as a USPS dinosaur T-shirt, dinosaur jigsaw puzzle and dinosaur collecting kit.

We sold out of our personalized stamps that feature our celebration logo with colored balloons. They were left over stock from Federation mailings.

Also, sales of our past cacheted covers were more brisk than usual.

Overall, we felt that we accomplished our goals – celebrated our 75th anniversary with members who joined us and also helped to support a state show, which is part of the Federation's purpose.

It was so much fun we want to do it again – at least to some extent. We have a great start for an auction, a donation from Harley-Davidson of a black leather, embossed jacket. We thought we'd do it at Wiscopex 2007, but so far we don't have a site or a time scheduled. Stay tuned.

To bring us the mail
Got no time to ho, ho, ho!

He doesn't have a reindeer sleigh
To help when things get tough
If it were me, I'd probably
Just stay home and keep the stuff!

But our friendly mailman
Brings a lot of gifts each day
When the mail slot clanks,
I peek out, say "Thanks"
Then our mailman's on his way!

This silly little ditty is from a book by Alan Katz and David Catrow, copyright 2005. *Where did they hide my Presents?* is available at retail and online bookstores. Adults will love this book as well if they enjoy spoofs about the holidays.

Holiday Gifts

Give the gift of stamps to a young person you know. A few stock cards and an assortment of stamps, along with a pair of tongs and some hinges, make a good starter set. Try to find stamps that meet an interest that a child already has such as soccer, space, dance or another collecting interest (rocks, seashells or others). Then spend some quality time with them, showing how to remove stamps from paper, read a catalog, or sharing items from your own collection. Time spent with a beginning collector is always time well spent!

Wishing you the happiest of holidays!

Correction

Due to an editorial error, the Sheboygan Stamp and Coin Show was listed in the October *Across the Fence Post* as taking place May 21, 2007. The show will be held May 12. *ATFP* regrets the error. The correct date and show information appears on page 4.



WORLDWIDE AND TOPICALS

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I-94 & 84th St. (815)-262-9117

TKURZINSKI2002@YAHOO.COM

Call for Wisconsin Hall of Fame nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2007 Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame. **The deadline is Dec. 31, 2006.** Qualifications required of nominees include:

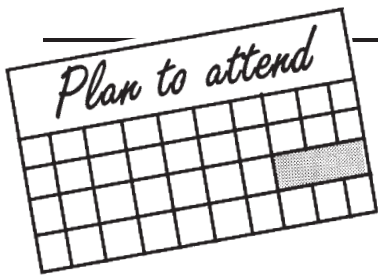
1.) Contributions of purely local club nature shall not be the sole reason for selection to the Hall of Fame.

2.) A deceased philatelist may not be nominated or considered for selection until three years after his or her death.

Submit 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 Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame to: Chairman, Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame Committee, Verna Shackleton, 425 N. Linwood Ave., Apt 110, Appleton WI 54914.

Questions may be answered by e-mail corosec@sbcglobal.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 all be sent to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee in one mailing.



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.

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)

November 18

Oshkosh Stamp Show
Oshkosh Philatelic Society
 Elks Club, 175 Fernau St.
 (N. Jackson & Fernau Sts.), Oshkosh, WI
 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free parking and
 admission)
Contact: Al Marcus 920-725-0798

**Support Philately
 & WFSC members**
**Use stamps
 whenever possible!**

2007 WFSC show schedule*

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

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)

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

March 10-11, 2007

ROCKFORD '07
Rockford Stamp Club
 Forest Hills Lodge
 9500 Forest Hills Road, Rockford, IL
Contact: Tim Wait, 1718 Northrock Ct.,
 Rockford, IL 61103 (815-670-5869)
 t.wait@insightBB.com

March 17, 2007

BAYPEX '07
Green Bay Philatelic Society
 Ramada Plaza Hotel, 2750 Ramada
 Way, Green Bay, WI.
Contact: Gordy Lindner, 1002 Amberly
 Trail, Green Bay, WI 54311
 (920) 465-6692

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)

April 21, 2007

DANEPEX '07
Badger Stamp Club
 Turners Hall, 3001 So. Stoughton Road,
 Madison, WI
Contact: John Pare, 510 Meadow View
 Rd., #3, Mt. Horeb, WI 53571
 (608-437-5124)
 pare16@charter.net

May 12, 2007

Sheboygan Stamp and Coin Show
Sheboygan Stamp Club
 Municipal Building, 375 Buffalo St.,
 Sheboygan Falls, WI
Contact: Barbara Stohl, Box 907,
 Sheboygan, WI 53082 (920-458-4883)

June 16, 2007

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

June 23-24, 2007

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

Gibbs Stamps closes



**Gibbs Stamps, Inc.
 of LaCrosse, Wis.,
 sadly announces
 the death of our
 founder and owner,
 C. Dorance Gibbs.**

Due to his passing we are closing our company. We would like to say thank you to our customers and friends. It was his extreme pleasure to work with you through the years. Inquiries may be directed to John Gibbs P.O. Box 264, Superior, WI 54880.

C. Dorance Gibbs, 1927-2006

C. Dorance Gibbs, 78, of LaCrosse, died Tuesday Sept. 12 at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in LaCrosse. He was born Claren Dorance Gibbs on Dec. 21, 1927, in LaCrosse to Claren and Sylvestra (Wermuth) Gibbs.

Dorance was a lifelong stamp collector, having begun collecting at the age of 5. He later turned his hobby into a small business. He also has been a life member of the American Philatelic Society since 1969.

After contracting polio at the age of 17 and missing his senior year of high school, Mr. Gibbs later returned to night school and completed his high school education. He furthered his education with two years of business college.

On June 16, 1951, Mr. Gibbs married Joan Elston in LaCrosse. They celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary earlier this year. He worked for the Trane Co. in the

order and billing department, retiring in 1980 after 30 years of service.

Mr. Gibbs is survived by his wife, Joan, of LaCrosse, a daughter, Kathy (Gilbert) Nimm, of Watertown; a son, Rev. John Gibbs of Superior, as well as grandchildren Mark Gibbs, Melissa (Travis) Cooper, Elizabeth Nimm, Jessica Nimm and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Patricia Ferguson, and by his brother, David.

Memorials may be given to the Gundersen Lutheran Foundation or to the First Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Gibbs' family also would like to thank Dr. Venki Paramesh and his associates at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center for the excellent care he received. They also would like to thank the nurses and CNAs on the sixth floor and in ICU for their care and compassion.