

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

Near overload

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

I think I was close to getting too much of a good thing at Stampshow in Rosemont, Ill., in August. For example, there were more than 200 dealers with booths, almost as many as were at the big Washington 2006 international show two months earlier. There were more than 1,000 frames of exhibits. There were interesting first-day ceremonies, a major auction that stretched over three days with more than 3,900 lots, a full schedule of informative seminars, booths and a special Kids Stamp Zone that catered to young collectors, and more.

The annual American Philatelic Society Stampshow is America's biggest show, and it's not so easily accessible to us collectors in Wisconsin every year.

In fact, Stampshow won't be back in the Midwest for five years, and the venue for that show turned out to be a disappointment for me and the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs.

At the APS booth right after the show opened, I asked Ken Martin, deputy executive director for the organization, when the board was going to vote on the site for the 2011 show. It was of interest because both Madison and Milwaukee were on the list of four sites the APS was con-

sidering, and I had written and spoken to him to promise the Federation's support if APS selected a Wisconsin site.

Martin informed me the board had awarded the show to Columbus, Ohio, at its meeting the previous day.

He said the board liked the facilities proposed by Madison, which has not hosted a Stampshow before, but the price was too high. It'll be considered again, he said.

But that second chance won't come again until 2012, at the earliest, of course. APS tries to move Stampshow around to expose stamp collecting to a fresh audience. It's scheduled for Portland, Ore., next year and Hartford, Conn., in 2008. So maybe you'll want to plan a little vacation trip around a stop at those shows. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

I had a pleasant conversation with John Dunn, the publisher of *Mekeel's* and *U.S. Stamp News*. John has proposed a deal that Federation officers like. He has promised to publish more news of Wisconsin club activities and also offer discount subscriptions to Wisconsin collectors. The WFSC has sent him our list of shows. Each club should send news releases to him on significant events. It seems like a win-win deal, and I hope you'll take advantage of it.

* * *

A few years ago, on a visit to New York City, my wife and I saw a museum exhibit of the Quilts of Gee's Bend, Ala. Perhaps it shows my lack of artistic eye, but I could not understand what all the fuss was about. The quilts on display

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seemed utilitarian, not artistic. The pieces were uneven, the designs inconsistent. The videotaped interviews showed people who used old clothing and excess fabric to sew into new creations. I couldn't see the art.

So I was baffled by the U.S. Postal Service decision to put 10 Quilts of Gee's Bend on stamps. "These are national treasures?" I questioned. I'm still not convinced, but the first-day ceremony at Stampshow was certainly interesting.

The most dominant presence on the stage was Mary Lee Bendolph, one of the quilters whose creations are on the stamps. She led the audience in singing a spiritual after the unveiling. In her remarks, she recounted how the craft of quilt-making was passed from mother to daughter in the poor community and how they used whatever material they had to create the quilts.

She told her personal story of not being permitted to return to school after she had a baby at the age of 14 because authorities feared she would influence other girls to become pregnant. She said she had asked God to take the baby from her. But, she said, God doesn't take back what he gives you.

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Time to Come Alive!
THE WFSC IS 75!

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

As clubs began to gear up this fall for a more active stamp collecting season, many used their newsletters to list all the meetings for the year – along with their expected programs, if known.

Including (and updating) a complete list allows members to fill in their calendars ahead of time and helps to ensure good attendance. Knowing a program topic ahead of time allows members to prepare for the program – and if there are gaps remaining perhaps someone will suggest ideas that will prove useful.

Badger Stamp Club, Madison Philatelic Society, and Oshkosh Philatelic Society each sent out its meeting list on a separate, colored,

card-stock insert that would attract attention. Each included other information, such as officers' names and meeting locations.

* * *

Program ideas

At the **Oshkosh Philatelic Society** Philatelic Dinner, Oct. 16, dealer William B. Robinson of Green Bay will speak on what a stamp collector should do to prepare for disposal of his or her collection. Robinson often has to deal with non-collecting family members trying to settle a collector's estate. If the collector conveys his wishes to heirs or the estate administrator ahead of time, it makes disposal simpler and less traumatic.

An opportunity to trade, sell or buy each other's hobby items was offered at an evening meeting of the **Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club**. Members could lay their wares, with prices on them, on tables so everyone could browse. There was also a Dollar Table, which was popular at the same event last year.

Prior to the meeting, at 2 p.m., members were offered an opportunity to tour the Kenosha Post Office. Postmaster Karen Garber extended the invitation to visit when she participated with the club at Kenosha Expo '06, earlier this year.

At a "show and tell" portion of a **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club** meeting, members were shown material gathered at (and through) Washington 2006 and two coin-related promotional items, and told about a perforation variety in the U.S. Vegetable stamps. "Show and tell" should be part of every meeting. It gets members accustomed to talking about their hobby and may open to others new avenues of collecting.

* * *

What others are doing

The second annual bourse sponsored by the **Oshkosh Philatelic Society** will be held Nov. 18. OPS formerly held an annual show, but it lapsed for several years. This most recent effort is a so-far successful attempt at a revival. OPS is starting its 77th year of operation.

A member of the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** who has experience buying and selling on eBay has offered to help fellow club members use the online auction service.

The **Badger Stamp Club Bulletin** boasts, "There are 103 on our membership rolls... That means we are the biggest stamp club in Wisconsin..." Then the **Milwaukee Philatelist**, newsletter of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, boasts, "Checking our

membership lists, we now have 113 members. This makes us the largest club in Wisconsin." It's good, healthy competition, and it means more collectors get a chance to enjoy the fellowship of stamp collecting.

Badger Stamp Club has begun sending its meeting minutes to many members via e-mail to save time and money.


The **Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club** had only three people in attendance at its July meeting, ample evidence of why some clubs shut down for the summer. But at least the three people got together to talk about their hobby.

Carolyn Henry, who joined the **Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club** in 2005, was named the club's Member of the Year because of her extensive volunteer activities on behalf of the club. According to the **KS&CC Post Scripts** newsletter, she is also a relative newcomer to the hobby.

The Kenosha club has voted to amend its constitution to improve its economic viability. Dues were raised to \$15 a year (\$20 for couples), and the free lifetime membership was eliminated.

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

U.S. Stamp identification puzzler answer



The September U.S. Stamp Identification puzzler pictures a portion of the vignette from the 4c Mesa Verde stamp of the 1934 National Parks commemorative set. The stamp, Scott 743, was released Sept. 25, 1934.

Thanks to all who entered.

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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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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, 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.



When WFSC was born 75 years ago: The stamps of 1932, part II

By Maurice D. Wozniak

Besides the overarching George Washington Bicentennial commemorative set and look-alike definitive stamps issued in 1932, only six other United States commemoratives appeared that year to tempt the founders of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. Each of those stamps featured touches of drama, and none more than the first U.S. stamps to celebrate this nation's hosting of the Olympic Games.

Issued Jan. 25, 1932, was the "Ski Jumper" stamp, which has confounded collectors ever since. At issue is what kind of sport is depicted on the small 2c stamp, which was issued in conjunction with the Winter Games at Lake Placid, N.Y.

In their book, *The United States Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century, Vol. 2*, Beverly S. King and Max G. Johl make light of contemporary criticism by *The Detroit News*, which noted that the subject of the stamp "holds loosely in either hand a stout stick of the sort used in alpine climbing and cross country skiing, but not by jumpers."

"In spite of this type of criticism by some who obtain pleasure in finding fault, the stamp was very pleasing," King and Johl noted. They did, however, reveal in their classic book two preliminary designs that showed an unmistakable ski jumper. Moreover, the body language of the athlete seems more in keeping with a downhill skier negotiating a mogul than a soaring jumper.

The issue also features one of the more interesting plate flaws in U.S. stamp production, the so-called "red snowball." It is a red dot that appears in front of the skier on one stamp.

The postal rate change of 1932 affected planning for stamps to support the Summer Games that were held in Los Angeles, Calif. The origi-



The 1932 commemorative for the Winter Games featured controversy over just exactly what sport was depicted. The issue also sports a popular, though seldom seen, plate variety known variously as the "strawberry snowball variety." It is likely a plate gouge.

nal plan was to issue – on May 15 – a 2c stamp for first-class domestic postage, and a 5c stamp for letters sent abroad. The anticipated increase to a 3c letter rate put the plans on hold, however, until the president signed the rate-change bill on June 6.

Anticipating the new rate, the U.S. Post Office Department had prepared the first-class stamps with a denomination of 3c. It released the stamps in Los Angeles June 15 instead of waiting until July 6, when the new rates went into effect. The 5c stamp, which also reflected the domestic airmail rate, remained unchanged, and when airmail rates rose to 8c its sales suffered.

The latter, printed in a rich blue, features the *Discobolus* statue by the Greek sculptor Myron. It is the stamp on which gripper cracks on the printing plate were discovered.

When the purple 3c stamp was issued, people suggested the figure of the runner at a starting line looked a lot like Charles Paddock, a flamboyant world champion. Instead, the Post



Both the Arbor Day and 3c Olympic issue of 1932 featured living people.

Office revealed, a photo of J. A. Le Coney of Lafayette College, also a world-class sprinter, was used and the image altered slightly. Le Coney was just a model, not the subject of the commemorative, the Post Office said.

There was no doubt, however, about the identities of the two children featured on the 2c Arbor Day commemorative, issued April 22, to support a practice that started in the Nebraska legislature in 1872 and had spread nationwide. In the search for a suitable stamp illustration, it was suggested that children planting a tree would capture the idea, and so the son and daughter of Alvin W. Hall, director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, posed for the picture in Hall's yard.

Although the designer took some liberties in his depiction of the scene – giving the boy a spade instead of a coal shovel, for example – the two people and the house across the street in the background remain recognizable.

To promote the Arbor Day stamp, the USPOD sent a form letter to state colleges, along with an example of the stamp.

After the new rate took effect on July 6, 1932, a significant quantity of the Arbor Day stamps remained unsold. When the local-delivery rate was

Stamps of 1932 continued on Page 4

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.

WORLDWIDE AND TOPICALS
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11-06

President's Corner, from page 1

Later, I overheard Janet Klug, APS president, comment on how moving the ceremony was. "I was almost in tears," she said. I'm sure she was not alone. It was the kind of emotion you don't often hear at a stamp-issuing ceremony.

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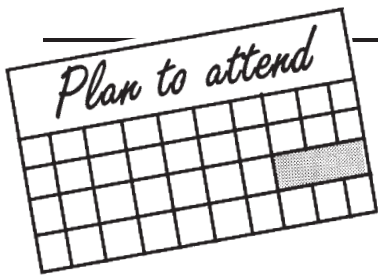
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STAMP SHOWS

Dec. 2-3

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 Milwaukee Exit I-894 & Greenfield or
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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.

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)

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

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)

Feb. 11, 2007

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
 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 21, 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

The long arm of philately

By Art Schmitz

A surprise package arrived in the mail today. Opening it revealed a full-color catalog of the stamps of Kuwait issued between 1958 and 2000, with all the captions in Arabic. The return address showed it had some connection with my brother's brother-in-law, Ron, now in his '60s.

Along with the catalog was a simple card containing four mint Kuwait stamps and a signature I didn't at first recognize. Written in the card was the following note:

"Dear Art,

"This is the best I've been able to do with stamps from Q8... just these 4 and this book that was free at the Q8 post office. Look through the book & let me know which ones you want me to look for by page #. I have a book at home in Q8. Then I'll go to a collector & get them. I think the set on pg. 327 is the best to get. Enjoy.

"P.S. Following is my e-mail address. Nance"

Finally it dawned on me! The sender of the package is Ron's daughter, who apparently sent the material to her dad. And therein lies the story.

Way back in the late 1940s, I was running the stamp club at the Milwaukee YMCA Boy's Department. At the time the brother-in-law was 13 and became a member of the club.

Some time last year he'd told me about his daughter going to Kuwait, and although he isn't collecting anymore, he apparently passed on my wish for stamps from Kuwait.

On a recent visit home, Nance gave the catalog and stamps to him, and he packaged them and forwarded them on to me.

What stamp collector doesn't relish a philatelic windfall coming to them out of the blue!

1932, continued from Page 3
 reduced to 2c on July 1, 1933, however, the stamps became popular again – more than a year after they were issued.

The 3c stamp commemorating William Penn's arrival in 1682 in the charter colony King Charles II named Pennsylvania had the distinction of being the first U.S. stamp without a frame line. A swirl of controversy was kicked up because of the image of Penn, who was a fervent Quaker, and whose goal was religious and political freedom and peace with Native Americans. The image was based on the only verifiable portrait of Penn, painted in London in 1666, when he was 22 years old. The issue was the armor he wore for the portrait. Quakers protested that this mocked the pacifist spirit of their religion.

The stamp was issued Oct. 24,

the same day as another commemorative – one for Daniel Webster, one of the greatest statesmen in American history, and perhaps the glummiest man ever to appear on a U.S. stamp. The portrait on the stamp is based on a bust by sculptor Daniel Chester French and shows the same stern visage as the 10c regular-issue stamp in the series of 1902-03.

Webster, who had many claims to fame, also could be known as the father of U.S. postage stamps. Shortly after the introduction of the Penny Black in England in 1840, Webster introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate calling for the use of stamps here.

The Post Office printed almost 50 million copies of each of the Penn and Webster stamps. Within a month, the supplies for both were sold out, showing the popularity of stamps with the American public 75 years ago.



The author's candidate for "glummiest" man on a stamp.