

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

Home delivery begins

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

One hundred years ago this fall, Waupaca was on the threshold of a momentous advance in communications — home delivery of mail.



Residents of many other cities had enjoyed the benefits of residential delivery for many years. In fact, special delivery had been in effect in larger cities for 23 years. But, in early Waupaca, home delivery had to wait until a house-numbering project was completed.

Collectors of postal history regularly document events such as this. Too often, I feel, the rest of us tend not to dwell on the many technological improvements that have facilitated communications since Moses came down from the mountain with those two tablets of stone.

A feature by J. J. Johnson, part of a continuing series, "When Waupaca Was Young," in the *Waupaca County Post*, made me realize just how recent is the daily mail delivery that we take for granted today. The Internet, television, intercontinental telephone — even airmail was still to come in 1908.

But in this case the *Waupaca Record* announced that a Civil Service examination would take place Sept. 19, 1908, to establish a list of eligible applicants for the job of mail carrier. Two carriers and one substitute would be hired to start Nov. 15.

Most of Johnson's feature was derived from the criteria delineated for carrier applicants in the 1908 announcement.

First, applicants had to be 18-45 years old.

"The age limits [were] waived, however, in the cases of persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty," the account stated.

"Male applicants for the post office service [had to] be at least 5 feet 4 inches in height in bare feet and 125 pounds in weight without overcoat and hat, otherwise their applications [were] canceled."

Women applicants were exempt from the height and weight restrictions, but married women were not eligible. Only single women, divorced women or women separated from their husbands and supporting themselves could apply.

Applicants were expected to be "physically sound and in good health," according to Johnson's report.

The Civil Service Commission, as instructed by the Post Office Department, would accept no one with this list of abnormalities: "hunchbacks; persons having defective hearing, sight or speech; persons blind in one eye; one armed, one handed or one legged persons, or those having crippled

arms or legs, or those suffering from asthma or hernia."

The exam consisted of seven sections, Johnson reported: "Spelling, arithmetic, penmanship, writing a letter of not less than 125 words on one of two selected subjects, U.S. geography, copying some printed lines accurately, and reading addresses (finding differences between addresses that were printed and the same address in written form)."

The two men hired were Will Ottman and John Kiffner. Ottman's route included business places and well as residences; Kiffner delivered only to residences.

Even though street numbers had been assigned throughout the city, not all addresses had mailboxes, which caused the new carriers some difficulties. In addition, much mail did

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Shown above is the interior of the Waupaca, Wis., post office as it looked during the early part of the 20th century. Note the separate windows for General Delivery and money orders. Photo courtesy Waupaca Historical Society.

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Two members of the **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**, Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids, displayed oddball stamps they had found, and their discoveries were noted in the club bulletin.

One featured excess golden ink smeared on the Liberty Bell on the Forever stamp, giving it the appearance of a "melting bell." It was bought at an area post office.

The other was a pair of 15c Flag stamps, one of which was missing the black denomination and inscription under the flag. It had been discovered in a box of back-of-the-book stamps the member had purchased.

Display of such discoveries – or any treasures in a club member's possession – can enliven a club meeting.

Program ideas

American Topical Association Chapter 5, Waukesha, continues to hold creative and easy-to-produce programs.

One meeting featured an "Alphabet Night" program. Members were asked to bring show-and-tell items from their collections beginning with the letter T, such as tabs, tax stamps, test coils or Tannu Tuva, Turkey or Tanzania.

Another meeting featured "Your Topic on Postal Stationery." Members were asked to show examples of their collecting topics, as reflected on items such as postal cards, envelopes, aerogrammes and air letter sheets.

Robert Mather reminded members: "These programs are only successful if you participate." It could be a reminder for every club.

A presentation of the American Philatelic Society slide show, *The Doctoring of Postage Stamps*, went over well at a meeting of the **Green Bay Philatelic Society**. The show demonstrated ingenious ways counterfeiters re-gum, change color and remove postmarks as well as other frauds.

Art Schmitz gave his slide show on Dead Countries at a meeting of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society. Schmitz is a member of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs Speakers Bureau, a good source of quality program topics with a local touch.

What others are doing

Badger Stamp Club, Madison, elected Sharon Whitney president. Bert Hart was elected vice president; Karen Weigt, secretary; and Curt Shawkey, treasurer.

Also, Badger Stamp Club is using a donation of several boxes of U.S. covers in club auctions. A box of foreign will be disseminated via a lottery process.

Amid the furor over "unsoakable" self-adhesive stamps, a member of **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**, Stevens Point, demonstrated at one meeting how easy it is to lift a stamp off paper with a little lighter fluid.

Tim Wait, editor of the **Rockford (Ill.) Stamp Club** newsletter, runs color photos of upcoming U.S. issues, along with a brief explanation of each.

At least two clubs – **American Topical Association Chapter 5**, Waukesha, and **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, each made a club project of preparing a one-page exhibit for a special section of Chicagopex, Nov. 21-23. The efforts included instruction and encouragement by experienced exhibitors.

When the West Bend library contacted the **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club** about putting up a display, member Roland Essig responded with a Memorial Day exhibit.

The **Green Bay Philatelic Society** agreed to let a club member's daughter-in-law use some old six-page frames to display student projects in the 5th grade class she teaches in LaCrosse. The teacher uses stamps to interest her students in studying history and geography.

A member of the **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., who attended the APS Summer Seminar, reported at a club meeting that people at the APS were impressed that members of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs had made a weekend bus trip to Pennsylvania a few days earlier.

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

President's Column, from Page 1.

not include a street address.

"So a third carrier was brought up from Fond du Lac to assist with deliveries on a temporary basis while carriers learned the people's names along their respective routes," Johnson wrote.

I wonder if any Wisconsin collector has Waupaca covers from that momentous year?

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

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

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

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

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, AFTP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (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.



How do you double the value of a Trabant? Fill the tank — or cover it with stamps

Wayne L. Youngblood

One of the least-loved automotive products of the Iron-Curtain-era East Germans was the tiny Trabant. These two-cylinder polluters have been the butt of many jokes over the decades, including the one adapted in the headline. Of course, as the years pass a certain fondness has developed for the cars, but the jokes remain.

A German stamp dealer, Scharam Farahbakhsh, used one of these lilliputian vehicles as an oversized decopage project that has garnered a great deal of attention. Shown nearby are photos of the car, taken Aug. 11, 2007, on a Berlin street. To get an idea of the diminutive size of the car, note the 1c Franklin stamp affixed just above the headlight. It looks huge!

This particular car is a Trabant 601, which was produced from 1963-89 in Saxony. It is now covered with thousands of stamps from all over the world.

To describe the Trabant as it was viewed for many years would lessen the description found by one poster online: "Ah, the Trabant

601; endowed with a smoketacular two-stroke engine until its very last years and a body made of a toxic recycled plastic that's similar to what toilet seats are made of, though it's strangely edible.

"There's a lot of fondness surrounding East Germany's automotive leftovers, though maybe that's because you can't get rid of one unless you feed it to your goat.

Although not edible, the Trabant was really the first production car made with truly recycled materials — a substance known as Duroplast.

Among other things, Duroplast contained cotton waste from Russia and phenol resins from the East German dye industry. Scrap wool also was used. Using Duroplast for auto body construction helped the East Germans avoid expensive steel imports, but in theory did not provide much crash protection. Oddly, however, recent crash tests show it has actually proven to be superior to some modern small hatchbacks.

There were two main related problems with the Trabant's engine: the smoky exhaust and the pollution



An old East German Trabant was covered with stamps as a novelty by a German stamp dealer. You can get an idea of the small size of the car based on the relative size of the U.S. 1c Franklin stamp (probably #632) affixed just over the headlight at right.



it produced — nine times the amount of hydrocarbons and five times the carbon monoxides of the average European car of 2007. More than three million Trabants were eventually made.

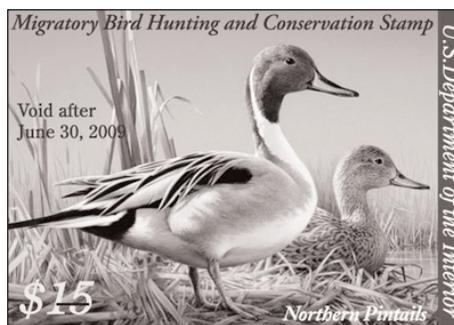
One online poster made the tongue-in-cheek comment, "Should Scharam Farahbakhsh ever want to travel with his car, he can ship it ahead of himself."

Call 1-800-TRAMP24 Oops! We meant STAMP24!

One of the more spectacular U.S. stamp design errors has turned up in the form of a message found on this year's Federal duck stamp. According to a story in a recent *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, the federal government says it has no choice but to reluctantly keep distributing a toll-free phone-sex-service number that features a breathy woman promising callers that they can "talk only to the girls who turn you on" for \$1.99 per minute.

About 3.5 million federal duck stamps, featuring artwork by veteran artist Joe Hautman, are affixed to backing paper that bears the misprinted number, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rachel Levin, a spokeswoman for the governmental agency, called the misprint "an unfortunate typographical error." Reprinting the stamps would cost too much (about \$300,000), not to mention a number of them are already in circulation, which would create another variety.

The correct number, which connects to the U.S. Postal Service's stamp fulfillment center is 1-800-STAMP24 (1-800-782-6724). Levin said two digits of the phone number are transposed on the backing of the self-adhesive version of



the stamp. The incorrect number, 1-800-872-6724, translates to 1-800-TRAMP24, based on the keypad lettering system. Callers to "Intimate Connections" are warned that they must be 18 years or older before proceeding.

INDIVIDUAL STAMP ORDERS
1-800-872-6724 OR 1-800-STAMP24
<http://www.duckstamp.com> or
<http://shop.usps.com>

LOC- Please contact your local information hunting- REPORT ALL BIRD BANDS 1-800-327-BAND or <http://www.reportband.com>

AMPLEX/ORDERING-REORDERING 1-800-782-6724 or <http://www.duckstamp.com> or <http://shop.usps.com>

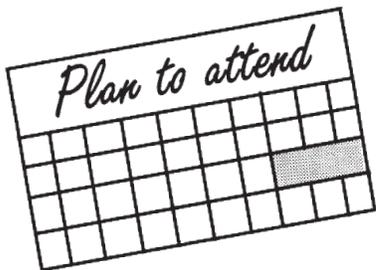
INDIVIDUAL STAMP ORDERS 1-800-872-6724 OR 1-800-STAMP24 <http://www.duckstamp.com> or <http://shop.usps.com>
Federal Duck Stamp Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mail Stop 1485P-4079
4401 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1622
<http://www.fws.gov/duckstamp>
0115645335901

Levin doubted that the digits were purposely transposed. "The stamp is perfectly usable," she said. "It will just be a lot more interesting for people now." The stamps were produced by Ashton Potter Ltd. of Williamsville, N.Y.

The 75th duck stamp features artist Joseph Hautman's depiction of a pair of northern pintail ducks.

"Oh, no," Hautman said upon learning of the error. "It's just an accident, I hope." Hautman said he understands why Fish and Wildlife would not want to pay for reissuing the stamps, but he said he's unsure whether that is the right decision.

Please share your knowledge with your fellow WFSC members
Write a feature for *Across the Fence Post* today!



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.

2008 WFSC show schedule*

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

Oct. 4, 2008

Monroe Stamp & Postcard Show
Monroe Stamp & Postcard Club
 Monroe Public Library, 925 16th Ave.,
 Monroe WI, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact: Earl Button, 1214 Second St,
 Monroe WI 53566
 (608) 328-2827 ebutton@tds.net

Nov. 22, 2008

Oshkosh Stamp Bourse
Oshkosh Philatelic Society
 Elk's Club, 175 Fernau St., Oshkosh WI
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus (920) 725-0798
 allan.mary@hotmail.com

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

Visit a
 stamp show
 near you soon.

Oct. 25-26, 2008

Tosapex '08
Wauwatosa Philatelic Society
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 S. 92nd
 St., West Allis WI
Contact: John Fagan, P.O. Box 13102,
 Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0102
 faganfalls@aol.com

For maximum atten-
 dance, make sure your
 show's listing gets
 included in
Across the Fence Post!

Nov. 21-23, 2008

Chicagopex '08
Chicago Philatelic Society
 Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 W.
 Euclid, Arlington Heights, IL

Get out and
 enjoy your
 hobby!

2008 WFSC Cover Exchange

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs will once again sponsor a nationwide cover exchange program this year. Any stamp club, philatelic organization or individual may participate.

The program is being conducted in conjunction with National Stamp Collecting Month in October. The exchange offer will expire Oct. 31, with returns being made to participants by mid-November.

Participants must submit 10 all-alike covers and a large business-sized envelope addressed and franked with 59c postage. (Larger envelopes may require additional postage and must be paid by the submitter.) In exchange, 8 different covers will be returned. The extra covers will be used with the Federation's youth program.

Only unaddressed cacheted covers on No. 6-sized envelopes bearing either pictorial or first day cancels from the United States will be accepted. A limit of 20 covers can be submitted. Clubs with leftover show, commemorative and first-day covers can reduce their inventory by exchanging them for different covers that can be used as club auction items, door prizes or gifts.

The cover exchange program coordinator reserves the right to return covers considered unsatisfactory for exchange.

To submit covers, write to the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

WHO'S WHO IN THE HALL OF FAME

The Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame was established to recognize prominent Wisconsin philatelists for contributions to the hobby in the state of Wisconsin and beyond.

This series of short columns will familiarize *Across the Fence Post* readers with some of the individuals who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since 1976, as well as some of the interesting details about them.

Which individual most closely matches the following statements? The correct answer appears elsewhere in this issue of *ATFP*:

This month's HOF member was the recipient of the American Philatelic Society's Luff Award in 1956. This person also is a recipient of the 1981 Collectors Club of New York Lichtenstein Award for outstanding service to philately.

- (a) Vern Witt
- (b) Barbara R. Mueller
- (c) Henry J. Schmidt
- (d) Frank Moertl

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Please...

Use stamps on your outgoing mail
 whenever possible!

Milcopex 2008 Palmares (awards listing)

Milcopex Grand Award

Hawaiian Postal Cards and Envelopes: Kingdom, Prov't Govt and Republic Issue, by **Eric Glohr**

Milcopex Reserve Grand Award

Mail from Evansville, Indiana 1818-1932, by **Irvin Heimburger**

Milcopex Best of Show Skinflint

The ABC's of the USPS Nondenominated Alphabet Stamps of the US, by **Donald Beuthel**

Milcopex Best of Show State Postal History

Mail from Evansville, Indiana 1818-1932, by **Irvin Heimburger**

Milcopex Best Single Frame

The 1c Postal Card of Nicaragua, by **Neal West**

Milcopex Most Popular

A Tribute to Benjamin Franklin, by **Carol Schutta**

American Philatelic Society

Pre-1900 Medal of Excellence

Hawaiian Postal Cards and Envelopes: Kingdom, Prov't Govt and Republic Issue, by **Eric Glohr**

1900-1940 Medal of Excellence

The 1c Postal Card of Nicaragua, by **Neal West**

1940-1980 Medal of Excellence

The US Winston Churchill Memorial Stamp and its First Day Covers, by **Todd Ronnei**
Post 1980 Medal of Excellence



Ken Grant accepts an award during the 2008 Milcopex Awards Banquet. Photo courtesy MPS.

The ABC's of the USPS Nondenominated Alphabet Stamps of the US, by **Donald Beuthel**
Research Medal

Evolution of the American Public Library, by **Larry Nix**

American Topical Association First Award

MUSH! – on sled dogs and dog sleds, by **Arie Schwarz**

One-Frame Merit Award

Chapeau Rouge, by **Judy Essig**

United Postal Stationery Society

Hawaiian Postal Cards and Envelopes: Kingdom, Prov't Govt and Republic Issue, by **Eric Glohr**

United States Stamp Society Statue of Freedom Award

The ABC's of the USPS Nondenominated Alphabet Stamps of the US, by **Donald Beuthel**

Postal History Society Medal

Mail from Evansville, Indiana 1818-1932, by **Irvin Heimburger**

U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Medal

Mail from Evansville, Indiana 1818-1932, by **Irvin Heimburger**

Collectors Club of Chicago Exhibitor's Award

Carroll County, Iowa Postal History – The First 100 Years, by **Rob Henak**

AAPE Awards of Honor

The Postal Development of Boone County, Illinois, by **Timothy Wait**

Chapeau Rouge, by **Judy Essig**

Creativity Award

Let Me Mount The Ways, by **Ellen Henak**

Novice Award

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Post Office, by **Milton Wirth**



Visitors to Milcopex study the exhibits during the show. Photo courtesy Milwaukee Philatelic Society.

William J. Ulhein Award for Best Americana

Life in Milwaukee – 1880-1914; At Work, Home and Play, by **James Meverden**

American Philatelic Congress

Evolution of the American Public Library, by **Larry Nix**

American First Day Cover Society

The US Winston Churchill Memorial Stamp and its First Day Covers, by **Todd Ronnei**

Women Exhibitors

Sterling Achievement Award

The Winnebago Portage, by **Neal West**

Open Competition

Multi-frame exhibits

Gold

Hawaiian Postal Cards and Envelopes: Kingdom, Prov't Govt and Republic Issue, by **Eric Glohr**

Evolution of the American Public Library, by **Larry Nix**

The Development of the United States Lunar Exploration, by **Reuben Ramkissoon**

The US Winston Churchill Memorial Stamp and its First Day Covers, by **Todd Ronnei**

Mail from Evansville, Indiana 1818-1932, by **Irvin Heimburger**

Vermeil

The ABC's of the USPS Nondenominated Alphabet Stamps of the US, by **Donald Beuthel**

Commemorative & Semi-Postal Issues of the Third Reich 1933-1945, by **Alfred Kugel**

Latvia 1918-1940: Stamps of the First Awakening, by **Larry Huebner**

MUSH! – on sled dogs and dog sleds, by **Arie Schwarz**

The Postal Development of Boone County, Illinois, by **Timothy Wait**



APS Executive Director relaxes for a moment without his tie during Milcopex. Photo courtesy MPS.

Carroll County, Iowa Postal History – The First 100 Years, by **Rob Henak**

Silver

Toward a Common Tongue, by **Fred Ziemann**

Life in Milwaukee – 1880-1914; At Work, Home and Play, by **James Meverden**

Great Lakes Passenger Steamers of Old – Luxury travel in the days gone bye, by **Roland Essig**

Baraboo, WI: Postal History 1847-1947, by **Ken Grant**

Cinderella Wisconsin: The State in Stamps, by **Ken Grant**

Silver Bronze

The Philatelic World of Lepidoptera, by **Raymond Sullivan**

To 'EE' or not to 'IE' by **Frank Jenich**

Bronze

Rate Change Confusion: How Much is it Now?, by **Larry Crain**

A Tribute to Benjamin Franklin, by **Carol Schutta**

Happy Holidays: A Walk Through the Latvian Holiday Calender, by **Larry Huebner**

Examples and Uses of Benjamin Franklin Stamps Through the Years, by **Harry Schutta**

Certificate

Parody Philately, by **Mark Sommer**

Computerized Stamps from Foreign Countries, by **Frank Moertl**

Single Frame Awards

Gold

The 1c Postal Card of Nicaragua, by **Neal West**

Vermeil

The Polish Naval Postal Service in Great Britain 1941-1945, by **Al Kugel**

Silver

Rattlesnake Island Local Post – The Only US Airmail Local Post, by **William Schultz**

Chapeau Rouge, by **Judy Essig**

The Winnebago Portage, by **Neal West**

Silver Bronze

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Post Office, by **Milton Wirth**

Bronze

Let's Visit the Zoo & Aquarium, by **Roland Essig**

Icarus & Daedalus, by **Jack Green**

Certificate

Let Me Mount The Ways, by **Ellen Henak**

Errors and Oddities on Israel Stamps, by **Richard Logan**

The Development of Electronic Mail, by **Reuben Ramkissoon**

Non Competitive Exhibits

Welcome to our Stamp Show

The Badger, by **Mary Ann Owens**

Youth Awards

AAPE Youth Grand Award

The Olympics – Let the Games Begin, by **Sherri Biendarra**

ATA Youth Award

The Olympics – Let the Games Begin, by **Sherri Biendarra**

Silver

The Olympics – Let the Games Begin, by **Sherri Biendarra**



The dealer bourse at Milcopex offered collectors a wide variety of material. Photo courtesy MiPS.

**Answer to Who's Who quiz on Page 4:
Barbara R. Mueller**