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ACROSS THE FENCE



VOL. XXVIII NO. 1

January 2006

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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 Room for More Fun



*By Maurice D. Wozniak,
President of WFSC*

My hobby is not really the only reason that we moved to a larger house in December, but it definitely was a factor. I'm hoping that a little extra room will let me enjoy stamp collecting more.

I'm sure many collectors will identify with the situation: The second bedroom in our house was pressed into triple duty as the family office and computer room as well as the stamp room and a bedroom when we had company. If more than one of the kids visited at once, someone had to sleep in the living room, and if some of the visitors had their children in tow, it seemed like pioneer days at our place, with bodies in repose in any available nook or cranny.

The stamp collection suffered, especially because retire-

ment left me more available time to spend on my hobby. Whereas I once could tuck my hobby onto a shelf in a small closet and address it after every stamp show I attended, my interests expanded apace. Besides collecting United States stamps, I added a single foreign country. Then, almost reluctantly, I added a topical collection. Also, I needed room for a collection of first-day programs from ceremonies I attended.

There's more. I discovered that I loved to examine odd lots, which some dealers offer at shows and at auction. I usually can find a treasure or two hidden away in the junk packed into these boxes. (We're not necessarily talking about monetary treasure here, you

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WFSC Announcements

19th ANNUAL WFSC

CLUB TRIVIA CONTEST

MOVED TO MARCH

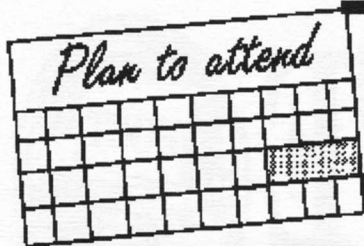
Trivia contest rules and questions will appear in the March 2006 issue of *ATFP*. Reserve a March or April club meeting date to join in on the fun! (Answers due by April 30, 2006.) The WFSC will award prizes to ALL clubs that attempt to answer at least 50 percent of the questions. Prizes will be distributed at MILCOPEX '06, September 15-17.

DUES ARE DUE

Dues notices for 2006 were mailed to all clubs in early December. Please help out by ensuring that payment is submitted to our WFSC treasurer by no later than March 1.



Join the Celebration at
WISCOPEX '06
March 11-12
Rockford, IL



Show Calendar and Registry

List your show, bourse, auction or event
FREE for one WFSC member-club event per year --
classified rates for non-members and all other events

February 12, 2006

ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND BOURSE

Janesville Stamp Club
Holiday Inn Express, 3100
Wellington Pl. Janesville
(Contact: Gary Wentworth --
608-756-1380,
wnstamps@aol.com)

February 19, 2006

CENMISPEX '06

Central Wisconsin Stamp Club
JADECO Stamp and Hobby, North
Point Mall, 200 Division St., Ste-
vens Point
(Contact: J.D. Manville, P.O. Box
845, Stevens Point, WI 54481 --
715-341-1111, jadeco@charter.net)

March 4-5, 2006

STAMPFEST '06

Milwaukee Philatelic Society
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 S.
92nd St., West Allis (contact: Tom
Zacharias, 6310 W. Howard Ave.,
Milwaukee, WI 53228 -
414.321.4362, www
.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

March 11-12, 2006

WISCOPEX '06

Hosted by Rockford Stamp Club
Forest Hills Lodge, 9500 Forest Hills
Rd., Rockford, IL
(contact: Tim Wait, 1718 Northrock
Ct., Rockford, IL 61103 -
815.670.5869, t.wait@insightBB.com)

March 25, 2006

BAYPEX '06

Green Bay Philatelic Society
Ramada Inn Green Bay, 2750
Ramada Way (contact: Gordon
Linder, 1002 Amberly Tr., Green
Bay, WI 54311 -920.465.6692

April 1, 2006

DANEPEX '06

Badger Stamp Club
Madison Turner Hall, 3001 S.
Stoughton Rd. (contact: John Pare,
510 Meadow View Rd., #3, Mt.
Horeb, WI 53572 - 608.437.5124,
parel6@charter.net)

April 8, 2006

OUTAPEX '06

Oshkosh Philatelic Society
Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond
St., 10 a.m. To 5 p.m. (contact: Al
Marcus, P.O. Box 11, Appleton, WI
54912 - 920.725.0798,
maram@tds.net)

May 13, 2006

SHEBOYGAN STAMP & COIN SHOW

Sheboygan Stamp Club
Municipal Building, 375 Buffalo St.
(contact: Ed Rautmann, P.O. Box
907, Sheboygan, WI 53082,
920.452.0054)

WFSC Officers

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Northwoods Phil. Soc. (Iron Mt.)
Outagamie Phil. Soc.
Wisconsin Postal History Soc.

EAST CENT. REGION VP

Vern Witt
Fond du Lac Stamp Club
Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club
Manitowoc Phil. Soc.
Oshkosh Phil. Soc.
Ripon Phil. Soc.

Sheboygan Stamp Club

SW REGION VP

Valerie Cook
Badger Stamp Club
Baraboo Stamp Club
Janesville Stamp Club
Monroe Stamp & Postcard Club
Rockford Stamp Club

SE REGION VP

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Amer. Topical Assoc. (Chptr. 5)
Belle City Stamp Club
Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club
North Shore Phil. Soc. of Milw.
Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club
Polish American Stamp Club
Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.

Kurt Albrecht (kta@kurtstaxservice.com)

Amer. Air Mail Soc. (Billy
Mitchell Chptr.)
Germany Phil. Soc. (Chptr. 18)
Italian American Stamp Club
Milwaukee Phil. Soc.

SOUTH CENT. REGION VP

Art Gaffney (stehlee@aol.com)
Waukesha County Phil. Soc.

CENT. REGION VP

Gregg Greenwald (bluebird@tznnet.com)
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club
Chippewa Valley Stamp Club
Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club
(Rhinelander)
Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Soc.

June 17, 2006

25th ANNUAL SHOW AND BOURSE

Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club
James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Ln.,
Rhinelander (contact: Larry Marten, 3295
Hancock Lake Rd., Harshaw, WI 54529 -
715.282.5636, lfmarten@yahoo.com / Bill
Julian 715.277.2692

June 24-25, 2006

TRI-PEX STAMP FAIR

ATA Chapter 5 and North Shore Philatelic
Society
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 S. 92nd St., West
Allis (contact: Robert Henak, NSPS, P.O. Box 170832,
Milwaukee, WI 53217 -
414.351.1519, jenak@execpc.com,
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org



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advertising—1st of the month; editorial matter—1st of the month. Send show
calendar information to WFSC Secretary Karen Weigt (see "WFSC Officers" listing for
address). Send all other editorial matter and listings to: Ted Gifford, Editor, ATFP,
206 Ritsher St., Beloit, WI 53511 — phone 608-363-8665, tedg@tds.net. Send
ads to: Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, ATFP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI
54136-0055 — phone 920-687-9077, dcarney1@new.rr.com. For a complete list of
advertising rates and policies (display, classified and listings), see the May/June 2005
issue of ATFP, or request a copy from the advertising manager.

Clubs Are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

At least two member clubs meet twice a month. **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club** meets at both Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids, and **Rockford Stamp Club** meets once for those who prefer a morning meeting and again for those who prefer to meet in the evening.

In November, the **Green Bay Philatelic Society** hosted members of the **Northwoods Philatelic Society** of Iron Mountain, Mich., at a silent auction program.

Other clubs in close proximity to one another could adopt this kind of visit, and an especially interesting program would make a visit more enticing.

(In another more common example of cooperation, members of the **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, could take advantage of a bus trip arranged by the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** to Chicagopex.)

Winter in Wisconsin may not be the best time to make a long drive in the dark, but it's a good time to plan a summertime visit.

Most clubs feature a holiday dinner or party for their December meeting.

To enhance interest in members' attending during this busy holiday season, some add to the program. For example, the **Green Bay Philatelic Society** offers a Scavenger Hunt. Members are asked to bring with them stamps that portray Oregon's Crater Lake, a sheep, and a U.S. observatory, and other specific

subjects, 10 in all. The **Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club** in Milwaukee offers a partial rebate for their dinners. That's also a good way to keep your treasury at a reasonable level.

What others are doing

Program subjects for the **Outagamie Philatelic Society** in 2006 include: January 19, the opening of the Appleton Post Office; Feb. 16, Show and Tell on a favorite stamp item and the trivia contest; March 16, Test Your Skills contest and Outapex promotional mailing; April 20, Scavenger Hunt and election; May 20 Banquet. Members are assigned to provide refreshments at the meetings.

Programs for the **Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club**, West Bend, are: January, Where to buy "stamp stuff"; February, Stamp Sets; March, Airmails, Stamps and First Flights; April, Currency; May, Treasure Hunt; and June, Wrap up for adults and bourse for the kids.

The **KMC&SC** newsletter, "The Mint Issue," also described an experiment to test a suggested method to deal with tough-to-soak self-adhesive stamps. The method involves soaking the stamps in tap water for about an hour, then popping the container into the freezer for about 24 hours and finally allowed to thaw for another 24 hours. Bottom Line: Sadly, this is not a perfect answer. Adhesive remained on some stamps, and on some, part of the stamp's back paper came off.

Green Bay Philatelic Society's timely January program is a slide show on "A Placid Winter: the 1932 Wither Olympics on FDCs."

The **Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club**, Rhinelander, held a \$1 auction at a meeting. The response was favorable, according to the club newsletter.

Presidents Corner cont. From page 1

understand, just something interesting or intriguing.) The problem is that the rest of the contents of the boxes tends to remain in my possession – foreign stamps that I don't actively collect, covers of one kind or another, old literature, old catalogs, even things I can't identify immediately.

To satisfy my craving for information concerning these little pieces of paper that I collect, I have accumulated sets of reference materials. These are invaluable to me as a writer; there's precious little that I have discovered on my own, but I am happy to credit an acknowledged expert with a little tidbit of information. That reference material takes space also.

You can understand that my stamp collection had evolved to a stamp accumulation and demanded space in my bedroom closet and even in the garage. It was definitely a factor in our needing elbowroom.

With a third bedroom, we have designated one as the Stamp Room. It will also have a collapsible bed disguised as a small sofa, so visitors can use it as an overflow guest bedroom.

Previously, with my collection tucked away neatly, I didn't get it out often enough. I hope that now I will get at it more often and actually be able to manage it better. That includes getting rid of the stuff that I don't really collect, getting it into the hands of people who do.

Winter is traditionally when we philatelists spend the most time with our collections. That's why there are big national stamp shows from late summer on. I'm really looking forward to this winter. I hope it'll mark a rebirth in my collecting in my new Stamp Room.

Of course, I hope you have fun with your own collection also. While you're at it, please share your happiness with someone else – a younger person, perhaps, a co-worker who won't think you're a geek if you collect stamps, or a club member, or (through an article for this newsletter) with your fellow collectors.

Featured Article

It's Quite A Bridge! (Canada's Confederation Bridge)

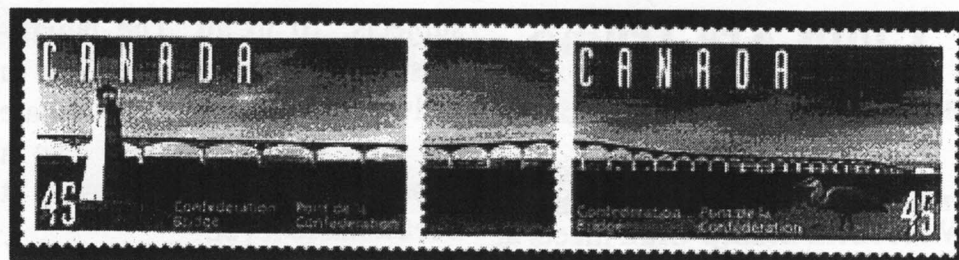
By Jack Searles, Published in the Olean Stamp Club Newsletter, APS Chapter 1442, searles@eznet.net

This last Summer my family and I vacationed on Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada. Traditionally, the majority of people visiting PEI arrived on the island via ferry service between Nova Scotia and the island. This service was guaranteed to the smallest Canadian province when PEI joined the Canadian Confederation in 1873.

Specifically, the national government agreed to provide "continuous and efficient year round transport for people, goods and services" between PEI and mainland Canada. For years, however, other options for crossing the Northumberland Strait were talked about, planned and even attempted without much success... until recently.

In 1987 the Government of Canada sought proposals from the private sector for an environmentally, technically and financially sound alternative to the ferry system between PEI and the mainland. Proposals were generated, bids let and ultimately contracts signed on October 7, 1993 with the Strait Crossing Development, Incorporated, representing a consortium of Canadian enterprises, for the planning, engineering, building and operation of a bridge across the Northumberland Strait. This bridge cost \$840 million dollars to construct. Construction costs are fixed for Canadian taxpayers for the period 1997 through 2032.

The bridge is rated with a 100-year life. However, during the first thirty five (35) years period the Strait Crossing Development has responsibility for all costs and will collect and retain bridge tolls (\$35.00 Canadian collected as you leave PEI). In 2033, ownership of the bridge will be trans-



ferred to the Federal government. Bridge tolls are calculated based on 1992-ferry service costs plus inflation.

Well, on June 1, 1997, this engineering marvel dubbed the Confederation Bridge was opened to traffic. Let me give you some specifics about the bridge, which connects PEI with New Brunswick. It is 12.9 kilometers (8 miles) long and 11 meters (36.1 feet) wide with two lanes (one going each direction) with an emergency lane on each side of the road. The bridge, typically, is 40 meters (131.24 feet 11 stories) over the water with a navigation span (so ships can pass under the bridge) having a height of 60 meters (196.9 feet) above the water. The speed limit on the bridge is 80 km/h (about 45 mph) with no passing.

The crossing, assuming no delays, is estimated to take about 10 to 15 minutes. To aid those of us who really don't enjoy bridge crossings, a retaining wall obscures the view of the water on all but the navigation span.

The bridge is also lightly "S" shaped to reduce the hypnotic effect of straight bridges. Located in one of the windiest parts of Canada, it's currently the largest span in the world over a body of water that regularly freezes.

Justifiably, Canada is quite proud of its architectural giant. To commemorate the event, Canada Post issued on May 31, 1997 a se-tenant pair of stamps attached to a label that depict the Confederation Bridge. These stamps are designed to provide a three part panoramic view of the

bridge from the New Brunswick side. The tab or label which joins the two stamps depicts the beginning of the navigation span on the bridge. The two stamps are valued at \$.45, the current Canadian domestic postal rate.

Crossing the bridge is certainly a not to be missed part of the PEI experience. I encourage those traveling in this part of Canada to see "the bridge" firsthand. For what it's worth, "the bridge" means many things to many people. Some islanders share its many positive aspects: increased island access, communication heightened, commerce enhanced. Others feel they'll be too "challenged" by the traffic and the numbers of people brought to them via "the bridge."

Only the future will tell the ultimate impact of this engineering marvel of the Confederation Bridge will have on the residents of PEI. For now, suffice it to say, PEI is a fantastic vacation spot populated by wonderfully hospitable people. For me, the bridge is a spectacular means to an end. If you're going to PEI, the bridge is worth the effort!

Sources:

Canada Post, "Hands across the Water"- Canada's Stamp Details (Vol 6, No 3, May/June, 1997)

Journal Pioneer. Confederation Bridge: Official souvenir edition. May, 1997.

Strait Crossing Development, Inc., "Confederation Bridge: For a Strait Forward Experience." Internet web page.

Closed Album

Philately Loses a Friend

Wisconsin native Mary Ann Owens passed away on November 21, 2005. She was well known in philatelic circles throughout the world.



Mary Ann started collecting stamps in 1960 when she was given a set of 1957 elephant stamps from Laos. At the time, she was already collecting elephant miniatures. This gift of stamps was to lead her into new directions in the hobby and adventures that would take her throughout the world. Her elephant stamp collection eventually became an award-winning exhibit.

In later years, her exhibiting world extended to other thematics like "The Blue Danube River", "Umbrellas and Parasols", and the "U.S. Transportation Coils". Sometimes she exhibited in other disciplines, but she always came back to topical/thematic exhibiting. Most recently, her exhibits were on "Ladybugs", "The Badger", and "The Aspinwall Connection" (a display exhibit on genealogy).

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Mary Ann's first foray into organized philately was joining the American Topical Association (ATA) in the 60s. She served as an ATA judge. In 1969 she was awarded the ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award.

Mary Ann was the founder of the Waukesha County Philatelic Society. She was also active in the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs where she served as a judge from the late 1960s to 1980. She was inducted into the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame in 1977.

The American Philatelic Society (APS) was another organization that Mary Ann had close ties to. She was a member since 1964 and served on many committees (Awards and Honors, International Relations, Youth, Speakers, Commissioners, and Judges Accreditation). She served as an APS Director-at-Large from 1993-1997. She was an APS Accredited judge as well as an FIP judge at many internationals. In 1991, she received the APS Luff Award for Outstanding Service to Philately.

Mary Ann was appointed to the USPS Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee in 1979. She served that organization until her retirement in 1997.

In 1993, Mary Ann signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Great Britain.

Mary Ann served as seminars coordinator for major U.S., international, and world-class events. She was the author of several books and wrote columns for various philatelic publications.

Mary Ann always found time to talk to and help collectors. She did much to advance the cause for topical/thematic collecting and exhibiting at a time when it was not as accepted as a philatelic discipline. She gave freely of her time and talents. Her seminars were always interesting and informative.

Mary Ann left Waukesha, Wisconsin, in 1980. She had made Brooklyn, New York, her home the last 25 years. But she always had a soft spot in her heart for her home state - Wisconsin. She was an avid sports fan and passionately followed the Wisconsin teams. She returned to Wisconsin regularly to support our stamp shows as well as to pursue her genealogy interests. Mary Ann was a true Badger! The philatelic world and Wisconsin will miss a truly great friend.

Surprise

U.S. domestic postage and fees

Rates effective Jan. 8, 2006

First-class mail

First-class letter up to 1 ounce: 39¢
First-class letter, each additional ounce: 24¢
Postcard: 24¢

Priority Mail

1 pound: \$4.05
Flat-rate envelope: \$4.05
Local (5 pounds): \$6.15
Distant (5 pounds, 2,000 miles or more): \$12.80
Flat rate Priority Mail box: \$8.10

Express Mail

8 ounces, post office to addressee: \$14.40
2 pounds, post office to addressee: \$18.80

Parcel post

Inter-bulk mail center, up to 2 pounds: \$4.36

Delivery confirmation

First-class parcel: 60¢
Priority Mail: 50¢
Parcel Post: 60¢

Additional fees

Certified mail: \$2.40
Money orders up to \$500: 95¢
Return receipt, original signature: \$1.85
Return receipt, electronic signature: \$1.35
Premium forwarding service: \$10.40 per week

U.S. International postage and fees

Rates effective Jan. 8, 2006

Letter up to 1 ounce to the Marshall Islands or Micronesia: 48¢
Letter up to 1 ounce to Canada or Mexico: 63¢
Letter up to 1 ounce to all other countries: 84¢
Postcard to the Marshall Islands or Micronesia: 34¢
Postcard to Canada or Mexico: 55¢
Postcard to all other countries: 75¢
Aerogram to all countries: 75¢
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Global Priority Mail where available to other countries: \$9.50
International money order: \$3.45
International reply coupon: \$1.85

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STAMPFEST 2006

at

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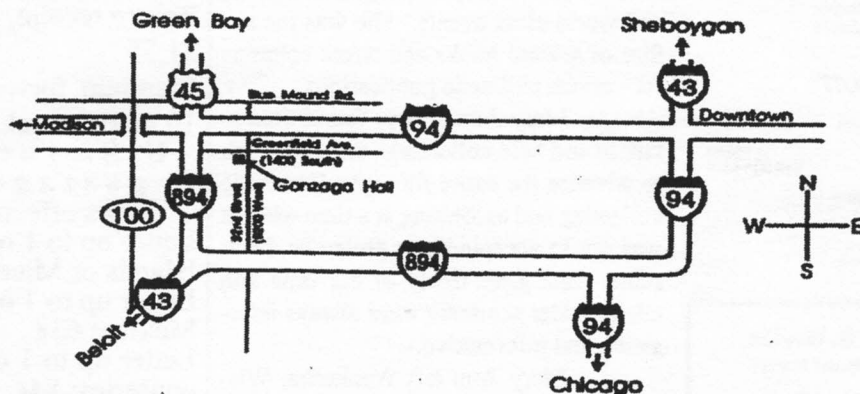
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