

# ACROSS THE FENCE



NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KAREN WEIGT

### FOOTLOOSE FILATELISTS



It was serendipity! While recently cleaning out my wallet, I came across my Footloose Filatelists (FF), Wisconsin pane, membership card. Then, I read the

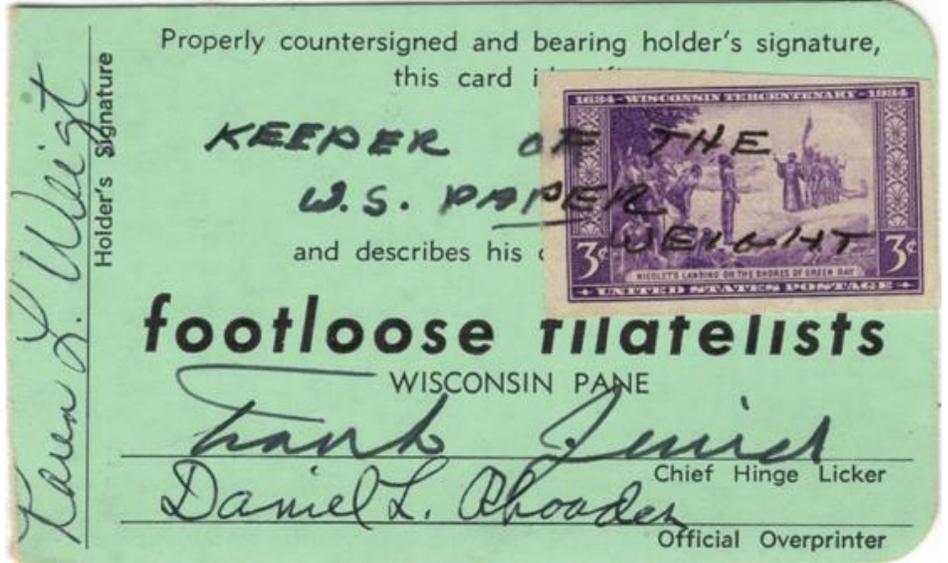
article by Jay Bigalke, editor-in-chief of *Linn's Stamp News*, about old or unusual philatelic membership certificates. I wonder if my FF card fits Jay's request to readers for such items.

I probably got my card sometime between 1985 and 1994 when the FF met after the WISCOPEX banquet. The dates coincide with my first WISCOPEX experience and the last time the Footloose Filatelists' annual meeting is listed on a WISCOPEX schedule of events. The group was already fading when I joined and only collected \$1 dues and adjourned. Women members were allowed at that time, too.

My membership card reads:

"Properly countersigned and bearing holder's signature, this card identifies 'Keeper of the U.S. Paper Weight' and describes his connection with the footloose filatelists Wisconsin Pane."

At that time, folks were still misspelling my name "Weigt" for "Weight," which explains the word in my unique identification handprinted in ink across an



affixed U.S. Scott 755, Wisconsin Tercenary imperf stamp. The card is signed by Frank Jenick, Chief Hinge Licker; and Daniel L. Rhoades, Official Overprinter.

The FF go back to the 1930s and its origin is a bit fuzzy. The name itself raised the curiosity of Viloo Cooper, who wrote about the organization within her "A Beginner's Page" column that appeared in the September 1957 issue of *India's Stamp Journal*, a publication published in India. She titled her piece "Footloose Filatelists," which goes on to read:

"Now don't get surprised by reading this title, because I am not trying to be funny at the expense of philatelists. Footloose Filatelists is a philatelic organization in America and is in existence for the last 21 years! And though they have met each

year without a break all these years, very little is known about the activities of this association even in the land of its birth. The association sponsors junior awards at the Wisconsin Federation exhibitions, a truly laudable object. I would like to know who selected this strange name!"

It seems renowned philatelic writer Herman Herst picked up on Miss Cooper's inquiry and wrote a reply in a later *India's Stamp Journal* issue. Jerry Husak, founder of the American Topical Association and native of Milwaukee, Wis., chimed in on the discussion with a letter dated January 21, 1958, that I found in the WFSC secretary files stored at my house. Jerry states in part:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



@ www.wfscstamps.org



@Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs



APS Chapter 350



ATA Chapter 107

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# EDITOR'S LETTER

ALEX GILL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Happy Spring! In this issue, President Karen Weigt talks about a recent philatelic discovery while spring cleaning. In our collections, perhaps this is a great time to do a spring cleaning and make our own findings.

Also, this month's feature article is about the famous Will Rogers and his contributions, written by Ray D. Perry of the Green Bay Philatelic Society. As always, please feel free to contact me with submissions and your feedback about Across The Fence Post.

Recently, I attended the First Day Ceremony for the new Gregory Hines Stamp in New York City. As the 42nd issuance in the Black Heritage series, it celebrates the life of the dancer and actor, most renowned for his tap dancing. The ceremony was not complete without tap dance performances to songs written by Hines. The ceremony's participants talked about the importance of Hines. Most notably, Hines' daughter and brother shared their memories. It was fun to hear from them and have the chance to meet them afterwards. In philatelic form, the participants were available for autographs following the ceremony. I guess I will be tap dancing to put the new stamp on letters and dancing to the mailbox!

Sincerely,

Alex Gill

Editor-in-Chief, *Across the Fence Post*

Email: [algill737@gmail.com](mailto:algill737@gmail.com)



**Figure 1: The reveal of the Gregory Hines Stamp**  
(Source: USPS)

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-Monroe Stamp & Postcard Club  
-Tri-State Stamp Club

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*ATFP* is published monthly September through April, and every other month May through August (10 issues per year). News of Wisconsin collectors, club news and other gratis original philatelic features are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but prefers email if possible. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to submitted copy. Material appearing in *ATFP* not carrying an individual copyright notice may be reproduced only by not-for-profit organizations, provided the author(s) and *ATFP* receive credit or attribution. All materials carrying an individual copyright notice are the sole property of the author(s).

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# CLUB CONNECTIONS

MARYANN BOWMAN, WAUKESHA COUNTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

As I write this, Wisconsin has just come through some of the coldest weather with the polar vortex causing cancellations of schools and businesses. One such "victim" of the extreme weather was the cancellation of the Stamp Camp sponsored by the Northwoods Philatelic Society. It has been rescheduled. I sent a large box of educational materials for their use. They also are distributing state-related booklets about Wisconsin and Michigan on stamps, most likely reproduced from the free albums available on the APS website.

Interested in helping a Wisconsin school meet its goal of collecting one million stamps? An elementary school in Colfax, Wisconsin, has been working to complete a project started with a group of school children in 2011. I received a request from Beverly Keltner, a retired teacher, who started the project with the goal of helping her students learn just how many a million really is by collecting a million postage stamps. To date they have collected nearly 2/3 of a million postage stamps representing countries from around the world.

The project started with a very small group of children and quickly expanded into a small business: "The Stamp Network." Students in the elementary grades become members of The Stamp Network by collecting stamps and/or working for The Stamp Network. Students are required to complete an application, are interviewed and, if hired, work during one of their recesses one day a week. They are paid in play money and can purchase token gifts from "The Stamp Network Store."

Beverly hopes to speed the process along. She is requesting help in obtaining more stamps so that the project can be completed. This is a good way to get rid of some of your duplicate stamps while helping a worthy cause. Once the goal is met, they are hoping to sell the stamps and use the funds to purchase something for the school or community.

If you have excess stamps that you would like to send to further their project, please send to Colfax Elementary School, The Stamp Network, 601 University Ave., Colfax, WI 54730.

There is also a blog which is in the process of being revived. Check it out at: <https://amillionstamps.blogspot.com>.

The Badger Stamp Club (BSC) had an interesting program in January. Wayne Youngblood gave an APS program "Forged or Genuine?" as well as offering extra tips on how to spot forgeries. The program itself featured mostly forgeries such as those "album weeds" that were created for use in packets. Due to the interest this program created, Wayne will be returning at a future date to give his own fakes, forgeries, and repair program. Wayne is an expertizer for the APS. It was also noted that the website of The Philatelic Foundation is a good resource as it displays certificates of all stamps it has expertized in the past 75 years or so.

The March meeting of the BSC will be a service project and be done in conjunction with their member bourse program. Members will help in sorting stamps for the ATA Taste of Topical kits which consist of 30 stamps on a specific topic, album pages, hinges, and a booklet about stamp collecting.

A program by Nancy Warner and Joe Stransky discussed the use of the internet for stamp collecting purposes. Joe specifically addressed using eBay and Nancy on the websites that members particularly like. A listing of those sites as well as comments made by members will be distributed at a later date.

BSC also voted to award a Club Life Membership to Booker Gardner who for years acted as their auction clerk and served at the Danepex Reception Table. How does your club recognize members who have served faithfully for many years? I'd love to hear from you about this and other activities going on in your club.

**Wayne L. Youngblood**

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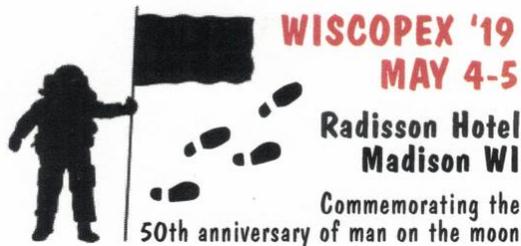
# FEDERATION NEWS

KAREN WEIGT



# CLOSED ALBUM

## WISCOPEX UPDATE



### LAST CALL FOR WISCOPEX '19 EXHIBITS—ENTRIES DUE APRIL 15

We're looking for exhibit entries from individuals for the Open, Single-frame, and Youth competitions.

We also welcome non-competitive 4- and 8-page exhibits as an opportunity for collectors to get a taste of this phase of philately. (Consider a Christmas-themed exhibit and enter it again at MILCOPEX in September.)

Request a prospectus and exhibit entry form from Exhibits Chair John Paré, 608-852-7358, pare16@mhtc.net. These documents, which include rules and further information, also are available at the WFSC website, [www.wfscstamps.org](http://www.wfscstamps.org). Just click on WISCOPEX.

### LODGING INFORMATION—ROOMS HELD UNTIL APRIL 5

WISCOPEX has reserved a block of rooms for event visitors from afar. The room rate (single or double) is \$109/night at the event site on Madison's west side: Radisson Hotel, 517 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI. Phone 608-833-0100 and request WISCOPEX/Badger Stamp Club rooms, which will be held until April 5.

### WISCOPEX ON THE WEBSITE

Read all about WISCOPEX 2019 by going to [www.wfscstamps.org](http://www.wfscstamps.org). Click on the WISCOPEX button, which will take you to the page with a flier listing activities and exhibiting documents.

### APRIL ATFP TO FEATURE WISCOPEX DETAILS

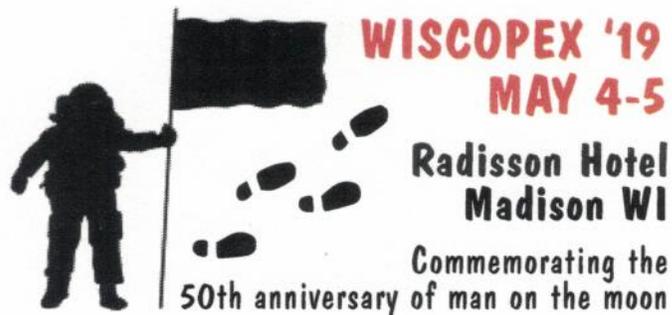
Look for the following to appear in next month's ATFP:

- Call to the WFSC's 88<sup>th</sup> annual convention
- Schedule of events
- Banquet reservation form
- WISCOPEX '19 cover offer
- Dealer listing



**KEN COAKLEY**, of the Green Bay Philatelic Society (GBPS), died on November 16, 2018. Ken was a longtime treasurer and lifetime member of the GBPS. He collected mainly United States stamps. His basement housed much of GBPS's archives including frames and juniors' material he brought along to BAYPEX shows. Ken will be remembered for the colorful assortment of old United States

stamps—sometimes four or five in number—that he affixed to the newsletter before mailing them to members.



## WE'RE ONLINE

@ [www.wfscstamps.org](http://www.wfscstamps.org)

- Read a COLOR version of Across the Fence Post—anytime, anywhere
- Additional club information and contacts
- Other interesting collecting information





# WILL ROGERS: AMBASSADOR AT LARGE OF THE UNITED STATES

RAY D. PERRY, GREEN BAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Figure 1: Will Rogers (US Scott 975)

Will Rogers has long been admired by not only Americans, but people around the world. Rogers was a great American philosopher, writer, and humorist. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of stamps commemorating his folksy humor and wisdom. I believe there are only two U.S. stamps and seven Nicaraguan stamps commemorating this great man.

How can you not like and admire a man famous for the quote, "I never met a man I didn't like."

William Penn Adair Rogers was born on Nov. 4, 1879 in Oologah, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory. This area is now a part of Oklahoma. The Cherokee nation is one of five Oklahoma Native American nations commemorated on the 1948 U.S. stamp (US Scott 972).



Figure 2: Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma (Scott 972)

Rogers did many benefits for victims of floods, droughts, and earthquakes. Among these was a trip to Nicaragua to do a relief benefit for the victims of an earthquake that struck Managua, Nicaragua on March 31, 1931. Nicaragua issued a set of five stamps commemorating Rogers and his efforts in 1939.



Figures 3-7: Nicaragua set of 5 (Scott C236-40)

Nicaragua Scott numbers C236 through C40 were all domestic airmail stamps. In 1941 and 1943 the 1¢ stamp was surcharged to 10¢ (Scott 686 and 688) making them valid for domestic mail. These stamps are beautifully engraved and very affordable. C240 is enlarged below to show its beauty.



Figures 8-9: Nicaragua Scott 686 (L) and 688 (R)



Figures 10: Nicaragua Scott C240 enlarged

Nicaragua is not the only country in which Rogers conducted a relief fundraiser. According to Wikipedia, he traveled around the world three times putting on benefits and bringing American good will to others. In fact, the National Press Club nicknamed him “Ambassador at Large of the United States.” Unfortunately, no other country has chosen to commemorate his humanitarian efforts.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of those in need or facing financial crisis, he was a strong proponent of the use of air transportation for people, mail, and other uses. Rogers traveled internationally, domestically, and with early air mail flyers all in support of these uses of air transportation. Figure 11 is a picture post card from the Hotel Will Rogers in Claremore, OK near Rogers’ birthplace. Both sides of the post card are shown. The picture side of the card shows Rogers at an airport and the message side (Figure 12) of the card is franked with Scott 632. Note the October 19, 1934 Claremore, OK cancellation on the reverse.



Figure 11: A post card of Will Rogers



Figure 12: Message side showing caption and postmark

On April 15, 1935 Rogers was on a flight in Alaska with famed aviator Wiley Post. The plane Post was flying crashed near Point Barrow, Alaska Territory killing both men.



Figure 13: Wiley Post (Scott C95)

Many of us have seen James Whitmore’s portrayal of Will Rogers in his one-man play titled *Will Rogers’ USA*. According to Wikipedia, Whitmore changed the monologue each time to use quotes that were applicable to then current events. It just goes to show how timeless his wit, humor, and wisdom were. Here are a few of my favorite quotes from Rogers.

- “Even if you’re on the right track you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”
- “Never miss a good chance to shut up.”
- “Rumor travels faster, but it don’t stay put as long as truth.”
- “Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip.”
- “I don’t make jokes, I just watch the government and report the facts.”
- “The trouble with practical jokes is that very often they get elected.”
- And of course, “I never met a man I didn’t like.”

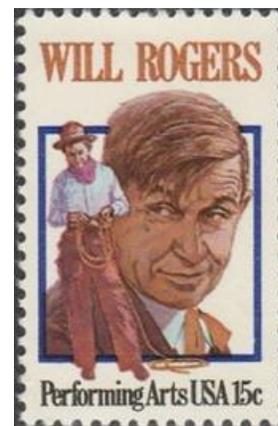


Figure 14: Will Rogers an American Legend (Scott 1801)

The man was a genius folks. He could poke fun at anyone without alienating them and impart wisdom at the same time. Skills we could benefit from today. Thank you, Mr. Rogers.



# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I am not familiar with the Footloose Filatelists Mr. Herst refers to, but I have been a member on various years of the Footloose [sic] Philatelists which claim to be the only and original ones. Founded in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, some twenty years ago, this group meets once a year in May at midnight during the convention of the WFSC.

"Good times, eating and beer drinking are the order of the day. Each member donates for the food and drink. In addition to this he is assessed one dollar annual dues for this one night. The sum total of these dollars is used to provide trophies for the best junior stamp exhibits in the exhibition of the WFSC.

"New members go through an elaborate initiation which is secret."

I share my curiosity with Miss Cooper and once asked FF member Howard Sherpe, of Madison, Wis., about its activities. He was rather vague but confirmed they were a raucous bunch and partied into the night. He would not tell me anything about the initiation.

Later, in 1987, I asked Herb Burgett, an older gentlemen from Oshkosh, Wis., if he knew anything about the FF. He replied in writing saying that "Five members of the Fond du Lac Philatelic Society, known as the [sic] 'Hungray Five' organized the FF back in the 1930s." Herb added that Philo Foote was one of the [sic] "Hungray Five."

Could Herb have misspelled "Hungry," or did he mean to write "Hungary?" The traditional Hungry Five were a group of area businessmen in Green Bay who were instrumental in keeping the Green Bay Packers franchise in operation during its early years. The so-called "Hungray Five" that organized the FF remains a mystery. It would make sense that "Footloose" came about because of Philo Foote's last name, but that's only a guess.

Digging more into WFSC files, I found that Elmer Foote, Philo's son was also a member of the FF. Oscar H. "Curley" Ochs, once served as president and secretary. I also found a 1938 "Annual Convention Call for Footloose Filatelists, Wisconsin Pane," written by then-President and Chief Hinge Licker Vernon P. Kaub. Several sections of this call are quite entertaining. Here are a few:

"This, my brave buckaroos, is a call to ACTION! Formally, of course, it is the official convention call. All loyal FF will attend the annual convention of the WFSC at Loraine Hotel, April 30 and May 1. As usual, the FF meeting will follow the banquet and auction. Madison FF's will have a room at the hotel which all members are invited to use as headquarters. Larger quarters will be reserved for the jamboree.

"The Chicago Pane will be here in force and will be presented with its charter by the Badger Pane, which also is the 'Grand Lodge.' This joint meeting of two panes, held jointly with the WFSC, is reason enough for a full attendance of Wisconsin FF's, BUT, HEAR YE ---

"THERE'S A MORE IMPORTANT REASON! Footlooses Filatelists always lead – always must lead – else there's no reason for existence! In the case of this forthcoming triple-joint convention the FF have an exceptional opportunity to demonstrate their leadership and results thereof. If the WFSC convention is a success – and I'm sure it will be – it will be because FOOT-LOOE FILATELISTS LEAD!

"Four Madison Footloosers constitute the executive committee on convention arrangements. Master of Gumming Operations Vern Davies is general chairman; Official Overprinter George C. Morris is chairman of the exhibition committee; Keeper of Colonial Commemoratives H.O. Pinther is in charge of the auction and will have numerous other chores, and the Chief Hinge Licker is chairman of finance, publicity. This gang is sure the FF of Wisconsin will not let them down!"

There's more in this written pep rally that I should perhaps use as a model for my 2019 WFSC convention call to appear in next month's *Across the Fence Post*. It seems there was a real passion for the FF and WFSC conventions but the women of that day were not to be outdone. In a later article, I'll tell you about the Fancy Frees.

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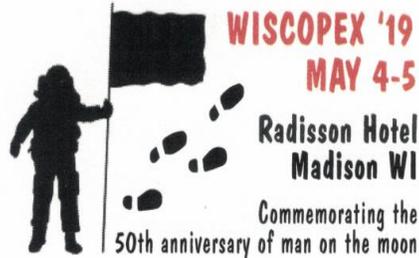
# SHOW CALENDAR

Want to list your event? Contact Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562 P: (608) 609-6173 E: klweigt@gmail.com

## WFSC CLUB SHOWS

**March 2-3, 2019 STAMPFEST '19**  
Milwaukee Philatelic Society, bourse only.  
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1441 S. 92nd  
St., Milwaukee WI. Sat. 10a-5p., Sun. 10a-  
3p.  
C: Robert J. Mather 262-968-2392  
E: burrobb@wi.rr.com

**March 23, 2019 BAYPEX 2019**  
Green Bay Philatelic Society, exhibits &  
bourse. St. Matthew Catholic Church, Multi-  
purpose Rm., 2575 S. Webster Ave., Green  
Bay, WI (parking in rear). Sat. 9a-4p.  
C: Mark Schroeder 920-337-9616  
E: markthetuba@gmail.com



**May 4-5, 2019 WISCOPEX 2019**  
WFSC 88th Annual Convention, hosted by  
the Badger Stamp Club. Judged exhibits,  
seminars, bourse, auctions. Radisson Hotel  
Madison, 517 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison,  
WI. Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p  
C: Karen Weigt 608-609-6173  
E: klweigt@gmail.com

**July 13, 2019 Bay de Noc Stamp and  
Coin Show**  
Bay de Noc Stamp and Coin Club. Bourse  
only. Bay College, 2000 N. 30th St., Joseph  
Heirman Bldg., Rm. 952 (accessed from  
Danforth Rd.), Escanaba, MI. Sat. 10a-3p  
EDT.  
C: Richard Reiffers 906-233-9261  
E: rgrpaperboy@earthlink.net

**July 27, 2019 14th Lakeland Coin & Stamp  
Club Summer Show**  
Lakeland Stamp & Coin Club. Bourse only.  
Woodruff Town Hall, Hwy. 47E., Woodruff,  
WI. Sat. 9a-2p.  
C: Dean Martin 715-356-9453, P.O.B. 202,  
Woodruff, WI 54568

## OTHER SHOWS

**March 9-10, 2019 Rockford 2-3-4  
Stamp Expo**  
Rockford Stamp Club, exhibits & bourse.  
Forest Hills Lodge, 1601 W. Lane Rd. (Hwy.  
173). Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-4p.

**March 22-24, 2019 ASDA Midwest  
Postage Stamp Show**  
American Stamp Dealers Association,  
bourse only. Holiday Inn Chicago Oak-  
brook, 17W350 22nd St., Oakbrook Ter-  
race, IL. Fri & Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.

**April 6, 2019 PARFOREX 2019**  
Park Forest Stamp Club, judged exhibits  
and bourse. Flossmoor Community House,  
847 Hutchinson Rd., Flossmoor, IL. Sat.  
10a-5p.

**April 6-7, 2019 MSDA Spring Show**  
Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, bourse  
only. Ramada Plaza North Shore, 1090 S.  
Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL. Sat. 10a-5p.,  
Sun. 10a-3p.

**May 31 - June 2, 2019 COMPEX 2019**  
Chicago Area Philatelic Societies, judged  
exhibits and bourse. Guerin College Prep.,  
8001 W. Belmont Ave., River Grove, IL. Fri.  
& Sat. 10a-6p, Sun. 10a-4p.

**July 6-7, 2019 MSDA Milwaukee Show**  
Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, bourse  
only. Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport,  
6401 So. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI. Sat. 10a-  
5p, Sun. 10a-3p.

**July 27-28, 2019 MSDA Spring Show**  
Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, bourse  
only. Ramada Plaza North Shore, 1090 So.  
Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL. Sat. 10a-5p,  
Sun. 10a-3p.

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