

ACROSS THE FENCE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KAREN WEIGT

THE HUNGRY FIVE & FANCY FREES



Back in March, I wrote about the Footloose Filatelists a group of Wisconsin collectors that met annually at the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs convention. I mentioned that their

history is rather vague and questioned if they were organized by five members of the Fond du Lac Stamp Club known as the *Hungry Five*. I heard from Jeffrey Thurwatcher, who wrote:

"They were the 'hungry 5.' If my father (Don) was still with us he could have named them. The Fond du Lac Club met at members' homes on a rotating basis.

"The lunch served at the FF meetings was rye bread, ground round and Bermuda onion slices. There were some other items, but the raw meat was the main draw. Dad also got the full sheet of Scott 755 from which the singles were cut to paste on the membership cards."

Many thanks to Jeffrey for his contribution to the history of the Footloose Filatelists, and now on to the ladies, who called themselves the Fancy Frees.

In 1999, I received a packet of papers from Nellie Rhoades, a Fancy Frees past-president and chief magnifier. The packet was her Fancy Frees file and included one page of what could be interpreted as the group's bylaws dated in pen "1960-1961." It states that the Fancy Frees were organized on May 23, 1953, at the WFSC's annual convention at Big Cedar Lake, Wis.

Membership was open to all wives of stamp collectors in good standing with the WFSC and all ladies who were stamp collectors. Furthermore, all members were to be **known by their first names**. Dues were 50¢ yearly and a **25¢ fine was made if the Fancy Frees badge was not worn at the annual meetings!**

Meetings were held yearly at the annual convention of the WFSC on Saturday night, 15 to 20 minutes after the close of the banquet. The group's purpose was to encourage and promote the hobby of stamp collecting among **junior girls**, and to sponsor an annual Fancy Frees award to the junior girl whose exhibit was the best

in the opinion of the judges, **plus companionship and fun.**

The Fancy Frees also had a password (Juliette) and a sign (licking of a hinge). Officers were as follows:

President and Chief Magnifier (magnifying glass), Vice-President and Holder of the Tongs, Vice-President and Holder of the Catalogue, Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Hinge Licker, and Inner Guard and Stamp Soaker Offer.

In 1962, Shirley Witt, of Sheboygan, Wis., became secretary-treasurer, and wrote a letter to Nellie Rhoades about plans to collect past dues. In October 1962, she sent a copy of the membership list to Nellie that numbered a whopping 64 ladies!

Other tidbits gleaned from Shirley's correspondence to Nellie was that the Fancy Frees membership card included a Juliette Low stamp and **each new president got a card with a Juliette Low plate number stamp**. Also interesting was a decision at the 1962 convention to discontinue giving stock books as a prize. Instead, the Fancy Frees would offer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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EDITOR'S LETTER

ALEX GILL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

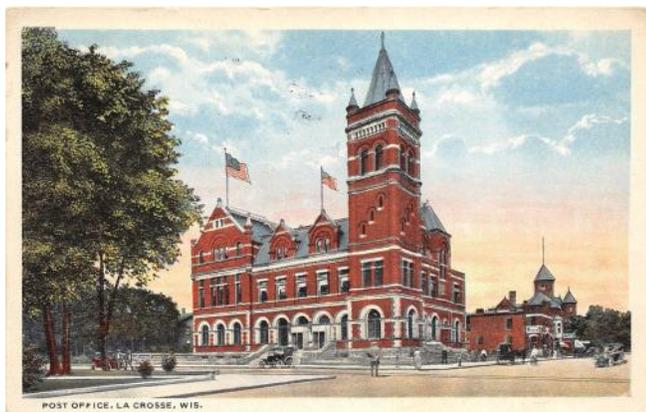


This issue marks the start of the summer season. With some clubs taking a summer hiatus, it is not a reason to forget about your collecting interests. That being said, be sure to check out the show calendar for shows.

I would like to draw attention to Milcopex which will be in September. This year's theme is "Music Brings us Together" and will feature a multitude of dealers, exhibits, seminars and auctions. More information can be found at www.milcopex.org.

One of my recent collecting interests has been documenting post offices. Specifically, I've been trying to obtain postcards depicting Wisconsin post offices. Most of my collecting interests have been specifically collecting United States stamps and not deltiology.

With an interest in architecture, collecting post office postcards seems fitting. So far, my favorite is the historical La Crosse post office, designed in the Richardson Romanesque style. The style is named after creator and architect Henry Hobson Richardson. The style is renowned for arches over squat columns, bands of windows, conical caps and recessed entrances. Many buildings in this style resemble historic buildings from the 11th and 12th century in Spain, Italy and southern France.



Sincerely,

Alex Gill
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-Tri-State Stamp Club

Across the Fence Post is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please visit the website, www.wfscstamps.org.

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CLUB CONNECTIONS

MARYANN BOWMAN, WAUKESHA COUNTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Spreading the word about our hobby just got easier! As you plan your club activities for the upcoming and remainder of the year, I want to make you aware of an easy-to-produce hand-out.

Pictured to the right is a series of bookmarks that can be printed out and distributed at club meetings, stamp shows, community events, as well as left out for free-taking at libraries and other venues. The colorfully illustrated bookmark can be printed out on tagboard and cut apart to be used as an effective tool for sharing hobby information. It could be distributed with a flyer that details your club meeting dates and meeting location, etc.

To download your free copy, 4 bookmarks per page, go to <http://www.wfscstamps.org/Resources/>. Scroll down to find your copy. I'd love to hear how you used the bookmark!

WISCOPEX DELEGATE GIFTS

Soon your delegate to the Federation's annual business meeting should be reporting back to your club. In addition to an update of activities of the WFSC, delegates will be taking back to your club, two gifts.

The first gift is a copy of a book written by Chris West. You may have read reviews of the book in the philatelic press. Titled *A History of Britain in Thirty-Six Postage Stamps*, each short chapter offers a view into a particular time period in the history of the country. There are several ways this book might be used within your club. Perhaps one or more people could read the book or select chapters and report back to your membership. Consider adding the book to your club library or donating the book to your local public library. The book could be auctioned off or used as a prize.

Club delegate will also be bringing back a Mystery Envelope. Inside each packet will be a small collection of stamps or remainder lots. Each envelope is different and has a minimum value of \$3. How your club chooses to use the "mystery lot" will depend upon the membership. Some might choose to keep it as a "mystery lot" (unopened) and have fun bidding on the contents sight unseen with the proceeds going to the club. Others might want to open the packet and sell the contents one stamp at a time. Or perhaps the lot might be sold at auction. And of course, it could also be used as a door prize or other incentive.

Your Federation strives to provide member clubs with ideas, activities, program suggestions and at times philatelic material. It is hoped that you find this useful.



Figure 1: The bookmarks available for download.

WYSTAMPS.COM
by Wayne L. Youngblood

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



ATTEND MILCOPEX!

trophies for first- and second-place awards and a magnifying glass for third. The group determined that **youngsters appreciate a trophy more than other things.**

Finally, as ladies will be ladies, Shirley informed Nellie that she had a bouncing baby boy on August 8, 1962.

A note about Nellie and Shirley: Nellie was married to Daniel Rhoades, a collector, exhibitor, and dealer of revenue stamps. They lived in South Milwaukee. When Dan passed away in 2002, she moved to Missouri to be near family members. Shirley was married to Vern Witt, who was very active in the WFSC as a past-president. He is also a member of the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame. Vern died in 2014 and Shirley passed away shortly thereafter.

As far as I can determine, the Fancy Frees disbanded sometime in the mid- to late-1970s and joined the Footloose Filatelists, apparently now accepting women on their membership roles.

It's not too early to put Milcopex 2019 on your September calendar. You won't want to miss this year's show!

We are excited to offer Pan-African exhibits and presentations. Pan-Africa does not refer to a specialized collecting society but rather a bringing together of exhibits and collections of philatelic material from African nations. In addition to the more traditional and older material from a colonial Africa, any interested collector is invited to participate by sending in a one-page non-competitive mini-exhibit displaying their favorite (more modern) stamp, set, or cover/s from an African nation. It is hoped that these colorful pages will convey the message that there are many appealing stamps for collectors to consider if looking for a new collecting topic or country.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Christmas Philatelic Club might just put you into the holiday spirit a little early. In addition to exhibits and presentations, there are a number of hands-on activities planned for both young and old alike.

Milcopex is also pleased to be offering an APS On-the-Road course on Thursday, the day prior to the show opening. A very favorable price of \$25 for an all-day postal history seminar on seapost mail will be taught by expert Gary Loew.

Milcopex is teaming with the National Stamp Dealers Association to bring you other exciting opportunities. HipStamp (formerly bidStarts/StampWants) and the Professional Stamp Experts will be in attendance and plan to offer educational programming right on the show floor. Visit new as well as returning dealers.

WE'RE ONLINE

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- Additional club information and contacts
- Other interesting collecting information



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WINTER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

The winter Executive board meeting was held on February 9, 2019 at the Rolling Meadows Restaurant in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

TREASURER'S REPORT - WFSC Treasurer Al Vick's 2018 financial report showed a balance of \$11,316.90. This includes \$1604.21 committed to specific projects. Only two clubs have not yet paid 2019 dues. The WFSC has seven members-at-large and overall membership numbers are up.

A motion was made and passed to offer current donation lots at the WISCOPEX '19 silent donation auction. Thereafter, items received as donations can be placed in any club auction at the discretion of whoever handles donation disseminations.

WISCOPEX 2019 (hosted by the Badger Stamp Club) – Karen Weigt reported progress of planning on various aspects of the show. The following motions were passed with regard to the 88th convention:

- Present the 2019 WFSC Dealer Recognition Award to Bert Hart, of Madison.
- Thank Robert Mather for producing and donating show buttons for the past six years.
- Distribute "mystery lots" to club delegates out of the WFSC's lots that didn't get in the MILCOPEX silent donation auction.
- Donate 30 maxicards for use as banquet favors.

MaryAnn Bowman will provide freebie items for distribution to all WISCOPEX attendees.

ACROSS THE FENCE POST – A motion was passed to require that mini-business card and econo ads run for a minimum of 10 issues. Text changes in mini-business cards will not be allowed. Text changes in econo ads will be allowed. Another motion requires that the above ads be stacked vertically in one or more one-third page columns.

Karen Weigt was asked to contact the Wisconsin Historical Society to find out if they have hard copies of all WFSC bulletins/newsletters. This information is required in consideration of eliminating the editor's file of back issues. Furthermore, a motion was passed to support Darlene Waterstreet's creation of a "reasonable" index of WFSC newsletters.

WEBSITE MATTERS – A motion was passed to retain the domain name wisconsinstamps.org for one year and encourage the Website Committee to develop the site in conjunction with the webmaster.

NEW BUSINESS – A motion was passed to donate \$200 to the American Topical Association to help fund the printing of "Magical World of Stamp Collecting," a youth activity book project.

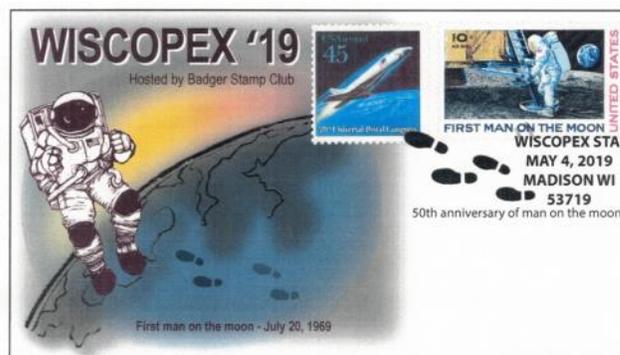
REGION VP REPORTS – VPs Art Schmitz (via e-mail report) and John Paré reported on clubs in their regions.

NEXT MEETING - The Summer Executive Board meeting will be held Saturday, June 22. Al Vick will check on meeting possibilities at the Stoughton Library or the Lake Mills Library.

WISCOPEX SHOW COVER OFFER

The Badger Stamp Club is offering its WISCOPEX '19 (canceled Saturday, May 4) cover that commemorates the 50th anniversary of man on the moon. The multicolored cachet features an astronaut walking on the moon surface. The cover is franked with the 1969 10¢ Moon Landing issue and a random 45¢ stamp from the 1989 Scott C122-125 Futuristic Mail Delivery issue.

To mail order, send \$3 each (\$12 for a set of four C122-C125) to Curt Shawkey, 610 Malvern Hill Dr., Madison, WI 53718. Include a No. 10 SASE and make checks payable to Badger Stamp Club.





WISCONSIN POST OFFICES

ALEX GILL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ACROSS THE FENCE POST

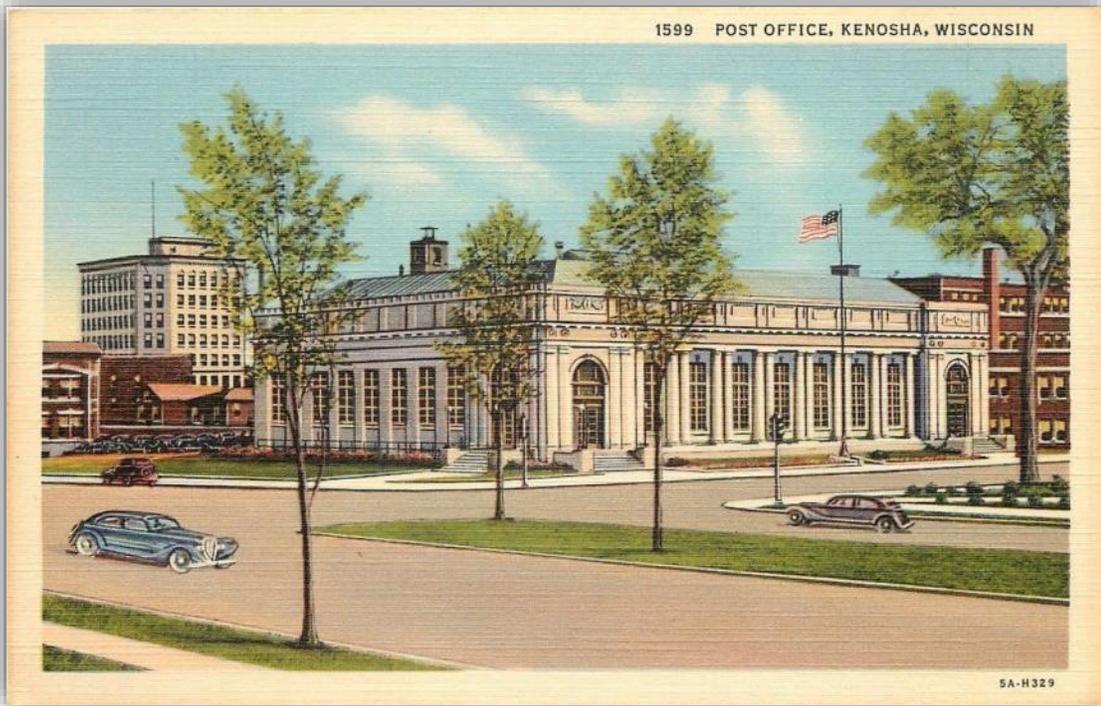


Figure 1: The Kenosha, Wisconsin Post Office (Kenosha County, Zip Code: 53140).



Figure 2: The Mayville, Wisconsin Post Office (Dodge County, Zip Code: 53050).

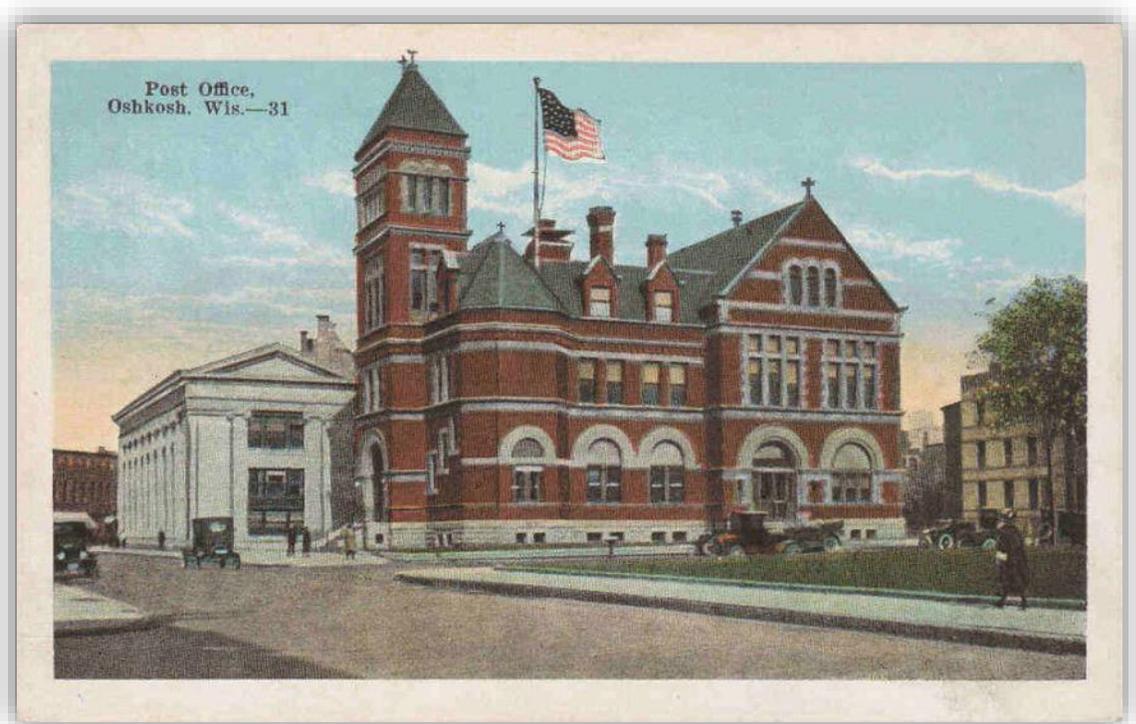


Figure 3: The Oshkosh, Wisconsin Post Office (Winnebago County, Zip Code: 54903).



Figure 4: The West Allis, Wisconsin Post Office (Milwaukee County, Zip Code: 53214).



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

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 & 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 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

September 20-22 MILCOPEX 2019
Milwaukee Philatelic Society. Judged exhibits, seminars, and bourse. Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI. www.milcopex.org.

October 5 CENWISPEX 2019
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club. Exhibits and bourse. Holiday Inn Stevens Point, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point, WI. Sat. 10a-4p.
C: J.D. Manville 715-341-5555
E: jadeco@charter.net

October 12 Monroe Stamp & Postcard Club Show
Monroe Stamp & Postcard Club. Bourse only. 18 & 8 Building, 1802 18th Ave., Monroe, WI. Sat. 9a-2:30p.
C: Randy Riese 608-558-6430
E: rdriese@tds.net

October 19-20 TOSAPEX 2019
Wauwatosa Philatelic Society. Bourse only. NEW LOCATION: St. Francis Lions Community Center, 3476 E. Howard Ave., St. Francis, WI. Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.
C: Gerard Madritsch
E: gmadritsch@hotmail.com

October 26 Tri-State Stamp Expo
Tri-State Stamp Club. Bourse and exhibits. Northeast Iowa Community College, 8342 NICC Dr., Peosta, IA. Sat. 9a-3p.
C: Pfohl's Stamps 563-582-6247
E: pfohlsinc@fbx.com

November 9 Oshkosh Stamp Bourse
Oshkosh Philatelic Society. Bourse only. Elk's Club, 175 W. Fernau Ave, Oshkosh, WI. Sat. 9a-3p.
C: Dave Carney 920-750-3117
E: dcaarney1@new.rr.com

OTHER SHOWS

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.

July 19-21 Minnesota Stamp Expo
Maplewood Stamp Club, Twin City Phil. Soc., Lake Minnetonka Stamp Club, Minn. Stamp Dealers Assoc. Judged exhibits, seminars, and bourse. Crystal Community Center, 4800 N. Douglas Dr. North, Crystal, MN. Fri. 10a-6p, Sat. 10a-5p, 10a-4p.



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