

# ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXVIII No. 7

Sept. 2006

<http://www.WFSCstamps.org/>

## Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

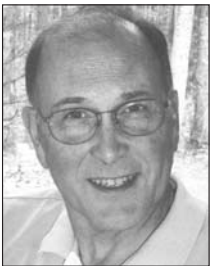
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

### President's corner

#### The key is service

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

The "season" of stamp collecting, you might say, starts now, in Wisconsin and nationally.



This is the time of year when more and bigger stamp shows are held and collectors' interests gravitate from putting in the yard and going on vacation to spending quality time with their stamp albums.

For many of us in the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, this particular season has taken on more significance because of our celebration of 75 years as an organization providing service to philatelists. We are proud of our record. The Wisconsin Federation was the first successful organization of its kind, and the fact that it has lasted all these years is testament that it was founded with the proper goals in mind and has continued to live up to those goals.

Personally, I am proud to be associated with the outstanding philatelists from around Wisconsin who make up the organization's board of directors.

We are throwing ourselves a birthday party during Wisconsin's largest stamp show, Milcopex, Sept. 15-17, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, and we hope you'll celebrate with

us. Actually, I view our festivities as more than a mere celebration; I see them as a rededication.

Besides a Sunday brunch program with packages of free stuff for every attendee, raffles and an auction, the WFSC is sponsoring a round of educational seminars on Saturday, free stamps if you bring your album to the show and find and mount them while you're there, and a stamp identification service. You can get full information and make reservations for the brunch from MaryAnn Bowman, Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187.

The real key to our celebration is service. In fact, most of what we do as an organization is provide service to our member clubs and collecting individuals. The Federation has done that for 75 years, and it's such a part of our organization now that I think we might tend to overlook some of what we do to promote stamp collecting throughout Wisconsin and neighboring states – on a volunteer basis, I might add.

This newsletter, for example, provides a calendar of shows and bourses, lists officers who you can contact for help and offers program and activity ideas through the "Clubs Are Trump" column, in addition to other news items and features of interest to stamp collectors.

We have an internet website, found at [www.WFSCstamps.org](http://www.WFSCstamps.org), which you can use to tell your club's story to potential members and other interested web surfers.

Our volunteer speaker's bureau of experienced collectors is ready to share their hobby at your club meetings.

President's Corner continued on Page 3

### Special WFSC cancel available at Milcopex

A special pictorial cancel has been created to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. That cancel, shown below, will be available Sunday Sept. 17, during the Milcopex show in Milwaukee.

Create your own special souvenir by getting a cover, this newsletter or even your cat canceled with this special marking (okay, maybe not your cat – the self-adhesive stamp will get stuck in its fur).

If you are not able to attend the show to create a special souvenir, you may wish to purchase a special Milcopex cover with the cancel.

For more information about the show or the cover, go to [www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org](http://www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org).



#### Inside this issue:

- 1...President's Corner
- 2...Clubs are Trump
- 3...WFSC Announcements
- 3...Joining With Juniors
- 4...Show Calendar
- 5...Milcopex schedule
- 6...1932 in U.S. stamps



75th Birthday Bash at Milcopex  
It's WFSC's birthday  
but it's your party!

Special Saturday seminars, Sunday brunch, and more!

## Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Several clubs heard reports during their summertime meetings from members who attended Washington 2006, the big international show held in Washington, D.C. Accounts ranged from high praise to complaints about some aspects of the show, as well as reports of other Washington attractions.

Hearing reports from attendees at club meetings helps to pump up interest in stamp collecting and gives members the realization that collectors from their clubs are part of the big picture. Repeating the accounts in the club newsletter passes this feeling on to those who weren't able to attend the meeting.

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John Pare, *Badger Stamp Club Bulletin* editor, coined the term "hypopathy" in a newsletter article. He suggested such a word might mean "a diminished amount of emotion," a condition he observed among members in the Madison club.

"We have a friendly, congenial group of people with a genuine enthusiasm for stamp collecting," Pare noted, "...but not as much enthusiasm for the club itself, for which most members are totally passive participants."

Sometimes, just identifying the

situation makes a difference – or something happens to spark a resurgence of activity. The club is one of the largest in the state, so there must be some sense of belonging.

### Program ideas

Richard Risch was director of the Mitchell Park horticultural domes in Milwaukee for 15 years, and collects native animals of Wisconsin on stamps and covers. He was scheduled to speak at a meeting of the American Topical Association, Chapter 5.

**Rockford (Ill.) Stamp Club** vice president Tim Gallagher gave a program on U.S. Envelope Cut Squares, a specialty of his for many years. Clubs can mine their own members for programs, and the subjects don't have to be world-class collections to be interesting to others in the club.

The **Green Bay Philatelic Society** no longer takes part of the proceeds of its silent auction of items. The latest event was after the June meeting, a joint gathering with the Outagamie and Oshkosh clubs.

### What others are doing

Sometimes "success" is relative. The **Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club** (Rhineland) show this summer was a "big success,"

according to the club newsletter. About 175 people attended, club members turned out to help, dealers said they'd be back next year, the custodian said everything was left in order and the club plans to do it again next June 16.

The **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., was so successful with a cover project that members are thinking of expanding their support to libraries of area schools, beyond the one that was the original intent.

Al LeBlanc was elected president of Northwoods Philatelic Society. John Klenovich is vice president. Jim Stearns and Mark

Pleyte continue as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

\*\*\*

The *Milwaukee Philatelist*, newsletter for the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society**, has published several recent issues in full color.

Appropriately, summertime newsletters from our clubs have plenty of references to picnics and strawberry shortcake and barbecues. The **Waukesha County Philatelic Society** topped off its June meeting with a trip to a frozen custard stand to help celebrate Dairy Month.

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

## Stamp Camp in Milwaukee Aug. 23

by Mary Ann Bowman

Stamp Camp is coming to Milwaukee Aug. 23! Stamp Camp is an educational program for youth, ages 8-14. The basics of the hobby are taught, followed by hands-on activities that reinforce those lessons. Philatelic materials will be available for use in projects.

Throughout the day, participants will earn Stamp Camp Cash that is used to purchase prizes in a culminating activity – an auction.

There is a \$20 fee for the event that includes lunch for the children. They will be able to keep the exhibits they

create and will go home with new philatelic material they obtain through the class and the culminating auction. Class size is limited to 25 – so act today if you are interested.

If you know children who might be interested in attending this event, contact MaryAnn Bowman, Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187, for full details of the event.

Stamp Camp will be held at Mayfair Shopping Mall in Milwaukee. Children will be able to spend a full day (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at Stamp Camp, while adults can browse, shop or take in a movie.

## Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs officers

### PRESIDENT

**Maurice D. Wozniak**  
1010 Berlin St.  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
715-258-2025  
berliners2@sbcglobal.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Hank Schmidt**  
P.O. Box 3153  
Oshkosh, WI 54903  
artcoy@vbe.com

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**Paul T. Schroeder**  
1750 W. 5th Ave., Apt. F  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920-426-2059

### VP YOUTH DIVISION

**MaryAnn Bowman**  
P.O. Box 1451  
Waukesha, WI 53187

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Northwoods Phil. Soc. (Iron Mountain)  
Outagamie Phil. Soc.  
Wisc. Postal Hist. Soc.

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Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club  
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Waukesha County Phil. Soc.

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Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club  
North Shore Phil. Soc. (Milw.)  
Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club  
Polish American Stamp Club  
Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.

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Germany Phil. Soc.  
(Chap. 18)  
Italian American Stamp Club  
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bluebird@tznnet.com  
Central Wisc. Stamp Club  
Chippewa Valley Stamp Club  
Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club (Rhineland)  
Wisconsin Valley Phil. Soc.

**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 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.



## WFSC Announcements - cover exchange

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs will sponsor a nationwide cover exchange program, in which all stamp clubs, philatelic organizations and individuals may participate.

The WFSC cover exchange 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 63c postage. In exchange, eight different covers will be sent back (the extra covers will be used for the WFSC youth program).

Only unaddressed cacheted covers on No. 6-sized envelopes, bearing either pictorial or first-day cancels from the United States can be submitted, with a limit of 20 covers. 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, Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

President's Corner, from page 1

We provide publicity and promotion of member clubs and the stamp-collecting hobby at a national level, including the suggestion of Wisconsin subjects for consideration in the program of the United States Postal Service.

Even before the Federation was founded, a group of collectors from the Fond du Lac area fostered clubs in other areas of the state and then called them together in 1932 to organize, so the concept of service to collectors, which became known as "the Wisconsin idea," is well established.

Among the WFSC's formal objectives are to acquire and disseminate a knowledge of philately, foster and help organize other stamp clubs, encourage educational aspects of philately among youth, cultivate friendship and fraternity among philatelists, encourage the preservation of postal records and materials for reference and assist the members of the WFSC in acquiring and disposing of stamps.



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AND TOPICALS**

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In a news release prepared for the philatelic media this year, we noted that these objectives are achieved by sharing ideas, pooling talent and equipment, doing things that individual clubs alone cannot do, providing centralized services and speaking in a unified voice on behalf of our constituency.


The Federation is a service organization. That's why it was founded. That's how it has succeeded, and that's how it will continue to thrive. Let us help to serve your collecting needs, and please let us know how we may do so.

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**STAMP SHOWS**

**Aug. 19-20 and Dec. 2-3**

Gonzga Hall \* 92nd & Greenfield \*  
Milwaukee Exit I-894 & Greenfield or  
I-94 & 84th St. (815)-262-9117  
**TKURZINSKI2002@YAHOO.COM**

## Joining with Juniors Youth Area at Washington 2006

by MaryAnn Bowman

The youth area at Washington 2006 was large and full of a variety of activities. Using the theme, the Wonders of America, large colorful murals promoting stamp collecting continued the idea. Catchy slogans such as "Catch the Coolest Rides," featuring transportation stamps (including the recent Motorcycle commemoratives, the Sporty Cars from the 50s and others), followed by some "Did You Know?" facts at the base of the display. Other themes included "Fly the Highest Skies," "Capture the Wildest Animals," "Discover the Wonders of America," "Explore Outermost Space," "See Amazing Creatures" and "Dive the Deepest Oceans." These large displays served as the backdrop for the youth area and were visible to anyone walking the length of the show. Other youth areas were decorated with large, colorful reproductions of stamps of the world.

The youth section was actually composed of two separately sponsored areas: the USPS primarily provided computers and technology, while the American Philatelic Society manned the hands-on activities. Children visiting the area were encouraged to complete six of eight activities to receive a gift bag, which included

Joining With Juniors continued on Page 4

## Call for Wisconsin Hall of Fame nominations

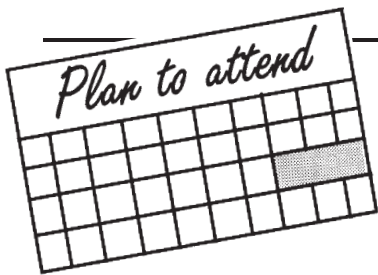
Nominations are now being accepted for the 2007 Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame. The deadline is Dec. 31, 2006. Qualifications required of nominees include:

- 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.



# 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.

**Special event!**  
**Aug. 24-27**  
**APS Stampshow '06 is coming to Wisconsin's back yard!**  
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, Ill.  
**Contact:** APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 www.stamps.org

**September 15-17**  
**Milcopex '06**  
**Milwaukee Philatelic Society**  
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, WI  
**Contact:** Art Petri, 3754 S. 67th St., Milwaukee, WI 53220 (414-327-4320) www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

**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)

**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, WI 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

**U.S. Stamp identification puzzler**



**How well do you know your country's stamp designs?**

The illustration at left is enlarged and taken from a U.S. stamp design. Your job is to correctly identify the stamp (by issue and date of release) to win a prize. All correct entries win.

Please send all entries to:

September Stamp Identification Puzzler  
Wayne Youngblood  
Box 262, Iola, WI 54945-0262.

The correct answer will appear in the Oct. *AFTP*

Juniors, continued from Page 3

a t-shirt and a new USPS activity book featuring the Wonders of America stamps.

One popular activity in the APS area was sponsored by the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. Replicas of postage stamps were being created as large murals, using common and damaged stamps (previously presorted by color). Those stamps were used like mosaic tiles to fill in the designs. It was fun to watch the progress of the stamp designs and to see how much the children enjoyed this activity.

A large papier-mache Owney (a small dog that rode the railway post office rails near the turn of the 20th century) sat on a round table and children were invited to create a stamp tag for Owney to wear proudly. The story of Owney is well recorded in children's literature and makes a great read-aloud to kids of all ages.

Finding just the right stamp to add to your collection was no problem with large, wood-framed boxes set on the floor. Adults and children alike were found combing through the stamps.

There were a variety of pencil and paper activities available as

well. Several of the word searches revolved around Disney movies and characters. Some were more philatelically oriented, including stamp denominations and types of stamps. Others related to U.S. history, with emphasis on presidents and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Stamp designs carried through the theme of the word search. The sheets were reproduced in color, which added appeal to the page.

Several events took place on a nearby mini-stage set up for the unveiling of the Disney stamp design for next year. Children of all ages could be found dancing

and singing while Mickey Mouse performed.

At a different time, the junior duck stamp artist was available for autographing philatelic items.

A large model railroad display was set up, separating the two youth areas. It attracted a good deal of attention. To carry through the postal theme, some of the flatbed cars carried U.S. Postal Service trucks. Another entire train was a replica model of the Celebrate the Century train that toured the country.

*This feature was originally written for the September-October 2006 issue of Topical Time.*

# Schedule of events for Milcopex 2006

All activities at Milcopex are open to all attendees of the show and are not limited only to WFSC members.

the celebration! A special pictorial cancellation will be available on Sunday (see Page 1). For additional details, or to make reserva-

tions for the brunch, contact Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

## Saturday, September 16, 2006

**10:00 a.m.:** *Make-It Take-It* This is a crafts workshop using stamps. All materials will be provided. Create stationery, cacheted envelopes, bookmarks, pencil holders, decorate vases or whatever else you can imagine.

**11:00 a.m.:** *Stamp Collecting Basics – What You Need for Your Hobby.* Seminar, presented by Maurice Wozniak

**12:00 noon:** *Philatelic Hangman* This is a game for all ages. Prizes will be awarded to winners. Join in the fun or be a part of the audience!

**1:00 p.m.:** *What George Am I?* Presented by Karen Weigt. The focus is on identifying the U.S. Washington Head issues of 1908-21. Learn while playing this game.

**2:00 p.m.:** *Stamp Jeopardy – stamp game* Test your philatelic knowledge. This is a game for all ages. Prizes will be awarded to winners. Join in the fun or be a part of the audience!

**3:00 p.m.:** *Album Bonanza – Stamps Galore – Free worldwide and US used stamps.* Help with the identification of your unknown stamps. Adults and children are welcome. You must have an album to receive free stamps. (A limited number of gently used albums will be available.) Find one, mount one. Seating and table space is limited. Reservations are suggested to "hold" a spot for you. Walk-ins are welcome on space-available basis only.

## Sunday – September 17, 2006

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.:** *WFSC Sunday Brunch* This special event is open to all WFSC members. Advance reservations are required. The brunch will celebrate 75 years of WFSC history, recognize the Hall of Fame members and honor Karen Weigt, the long-serving WFSC secretary who is stepping down from that position.

Special souvenirs and gift items are available for attendees. There will also be a small silent and mini-auction to benefit the WFSC.

There will also be WFSC raffles throughout

### U.S. Stamp identification puzzler, answer

The July-August Stamp Identification puzzler pictures the central vignette from the 3c Washington Territory commemorative, Scott 1019, released March 2, 1953. Thanks to all who entered.



## Trash to Treasure Table

One man's trash is another man's treasure

One free item per coupon  
Posters, literature, catalogs, misc.

(Name )

(WFSC Club)

Available only on Saturday, September 16 in the WFSC Seminar Room

## Milcopex 2006 & HarleyDavidson Covers

The Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc is sponsoring MILCOPEX 2006 on September 15, 16, & 17 at Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 4747 S Howell Ave. Terry Kutz will be playing the part of Benjamin Franklin. It is his 300th birthday.

We will also have an unveiling of the 39 cent Harley Davidson Stamp on the 15th of September.

We will be having three cachets and cancels for Milcopex and one cachet and cancel for Harley Davidson.



Harley Davidson Motorcycle



MILCOPEX 2006  
Milwaukee Philatelic Society

For mail orders send a self addressed, stamped envelope with \$2.00 for a single and \$5.00 for a set of three to MPS, P.O. Box 13245, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-9998. \$2.00 for Harley cachets.

# WFSC formation year, 1932, was also important stamp year

By Maurice D. Wozniak

When the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs was founded in 1932, the philatelic hobby was in a period that many people classify as the golden years.

The practice of requiring pre-paid postage on mail was less than 100 years old. Great Britain, where postage stamps were invented in 1840, had issued about 200 stamps in the intervening years. The United States had issued about 700 collectible stamps.

Almost without exception, the U.S. stamps issued in 1932 would make a collector's heart beat faster. They included a set of 12 definitive-sized commemorative stamps to honor George Washington, the first U.S. Olympics stamps, a stamp showing a living person and the first stamped envelopes in six years.

In addition, this stamp activity took place during a 1c rise in the first-class mail rate, which affected the popularity of several of the stamps issued.

Arguably, the most important issue from a philatelic standpoint was the Washington Bicentennial set of 12 stamps, with denominations ranging from 1/2c through 10c. It was reported that one million first-day covers were mailed from Washington, D.C., Jan. 1, 1932, which stands as a gauge of the set's popularity.



A full set of 1932 Washington Bicentennial commemoratives on a Jan. 1, 1932 first-day cover.

The stamps went on sale at post offices nationwide the next day.

The Bicentennial commemoratives originally were planned to feature significant events in George Washington's life. Instead, the Post Office decided to use various portraits of the first president, ranging from 1772 as a Virginia colonel (1 1/2c) to 1798 (4c), each with a different, ornate frame.

The most popular design had to be that found on the carmine 2c stamp, the familiar "Athenaeum" portrait by Gilbert Stuart, painted in 1796 and never completed (although Stuart finished 75 replicas). The portrait derived its name from its purchase by the Boston Athenaeum soon after the artist's death. It hung

in the Boston Library for 150 years.

Also issued Jan. 1 were five denominations of stamped envelopes, all showing the same design, an exterior view of Washington's home, Mount Vernon. A 3c version was issued June 16, in anticipation of the postal rate increase from 2c to 3c on July 6.

Also on June 16, the Post Office released a violet 3c regular-issue adhesive that virtually duplicated the 2c Washington commemorative design, but without the dates of Washington's birth and death. Besides the sheet stamp, the design was used for a booklet, issued July 25, and for coil stamps issued June 24 (perforated vertically) and Oct. 12 (perforated horizontally).

One other definitive stamp was issued during 1932. It was a 6c orange stamp featuring the image of President James A. Garfield, perforated 10 vertically, released Aug. 18 to reflect the new rate for two-ounce letters.

An envelope with an embossed 6c orange Washington double circle indicium (the type of 1916-32) also was issued Aug. 18.

Six other commemorative stamps, all of which were tinged with controversy, were issued in 1932. This summary of stamps and an explanation of the controversies will conclude in *Across the Fence Post* next month.

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