

THE WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS
SEPTEMBER BULLETIN
1935

To the officers and members of affiliate clubs:-

Greetings:

It becomes my pleasant duty to take my pen in hand - in the present instance, just an ordinary Remington portable - and start action on the first Fall Bulletin. After a three months rest, we are ready and rarin' to go, and from present indications, the coming season will be the best we have ever had, so lets all get behind our State Federation this month and make it something to write home about.

In spite of the fact that the summer has been a hot one and many of us have had plenty to do in our gardens, there still has been a noticeable increase in stamp activities during the warmer months over what we have experienced in previous years. This, of course, means but one thing, stamp collecting has come to mean more to most of us than merely the accumulating of wee bits of paper for our collections - we are coming to see that there is a real education back of all this more honest-to-goodness pleasure connected with our collecting than from any other one thing we can find to do - which behooves us then to make the most of our present opportunities. In other words - get while the getting is good.

Before I go on to the news items that have accumulated during the summer, I would like to mention certain trends that I have noticed here and there about the state that are meaningful to say the least. The extreme peak of the mad scramble for general U.S. postage has been passed and with it we may expect to see a slight lessening in the demand for U.S. and a corresponding increase in the popularity of certain foreign groups, just which I am not prepared to state. Personally, I was not in favor of the craze which swept this country along about 1932 and has continued up to the present for just U.S. and nothing else - it was not a healthy condition for our hobby. Another thing that I have noticed is the greatly increased demand for U.S. Bureau Print precancels. The number of people who have gone in for this branch of collecting is truly astounding, especially during the past two years. The best gauge of this is the 40% gross increase in general Bureau prices in the last catalogue. Yes sir - even old Hard Shell Count has taken up with them since the Chicago Convention of the P.S.S. two weeks ago, and that dear folks, is sompin. The next one ought to be Verne Kaub. At every meeting that I have attended this summer - and I'll take them up a little later - there have been plenty of men looking for precancels - a condition I've seen before. Maybe, after all, there is something to this cry the precancel hounds put up about there being lots of fun in precancels. Anyway, don't forget that at least 90% of those who have taken up this branch of the hobby were first collectors of general postage and so know something of both sides of the picture.

It has been said that one man's loss is another man's gain. There seems to be some truth to the saying - Verne Kaub has taken a job, or maybe its a position, we are not sure, with the W. P. & L. Co. here in Madison, commuting to Fondy every Saturday. This will make him somewhat of a resident of our fair city and as such, has promised us to lend a hand towards making this another banner year for the University Stamp Club. We do know that he is living up to his reputation as a traveler in that he has been along with us on a couple of trips recently in our old Chevy.

Summer is almost over, as we have hinted previously, and this month marks the renewed activities of all of our member clubs. Some, its true have kept going during the summer and with excellent results in at least two cases which will be mentioned later. Here in Madison, it was deemed out of the question to hold regular meetings, so we have been doing our stuff by visiting other clubs during the hot weather.

The first event that is up for discussion happened way back in June. Jack Russel worked up a party for the 15th of that month, consisting mostly of a big auction and I wish to say that for Jack's first try at the game, he did better than good. At any rate, Lorelle Wolf and your

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president drove up, picking up Count Masche on the way. Besides we three, there were collectors at this Wautoma meeting from Waupaca and Milwaukee - about 25 being present in all. Some very nice U.S. material was offered but unfortunately, the crowd was not large enough to force better than average prices. After the meeting, Jack extended us a standing invitation to come up and enjoy some real fishing when the big boys were biting - perhaps you don't think we will.

On the 10th of July, the boys of Waupaca staged another summer rally which was really well attended - I was surprised. A letter from Leo Martin tells me that there were fans at this meeting from Madison, Wisconsin Rapids, Iola, Stevens Point, Berlin, Wautoma, Fond du Lac and Menasha - guess who from Menasha not to mention a goodly turnout from the Waupaca Club. The auction was first class in every respect and Leo Martin as auctioneer showed that he knows his Bermudas. Some excellent prices were obtained too, despite the warm evening. I was indeed glad of the opportunity which this meeting offered to meet so many new and friendly people who are associated with our Federation. Leo states that after the success of this meeting they will try another, possibly during National Stamp Week, Nov. 4th to the 10th. Let us know Leo so that we get it in the next Bulletin.

The Milwaukee Club had their annual election of officers scheduled for the 18th of June but as yet we have no definite word on the new slate. Paul Segnitz was elected president, so much we know and one of Paul's first official acts was to tender us an invitation to "come up and see us some time", early in the fall. Which invitation we gladly accepted - now its up to Paul to set the date. We hope that it will be in October or early November.

I have a letter here from Sidney Frost of Racine anent our visit to their club on the 18th of May, which we mentioned in the June Bulletin. After handing us a few bouquets which we didn't feel worthy of, he concludes with this line: "Anyway in which you look at it, it was a worth while event for us and our club will have a larger group to join the State Federation because of it". And thats good news in anybodys language. Thanks Sidney - we will try to come again.

And last, but not least in state happenings, was an impromptu meeting at Ripon on the 23rd of August. Col. Ralph Kimbal was vacationing up at Green Lake and to arouse interest, a grand get-together was planned with Ralph as principle speaker. I wish to say that this meeting held more varied interest than any we have attended all summer and we hope that as a result we may have the Ripon club back in harness again this season. In his talk, Col. Kimbal touched on several topics of more than passing interest - one might know that when he speaks he has something to say - and those of us who were there certainly enjoyed every minutes of it. There were collectors present from Sheboygan, Fondy, Oshkosh, Ripon, Beaver Dam and Madison - its mighty good to attend meetings like this and find representation from so wide an area - it shows a spirit thats hard to beat. One of the things that developed as a result of this meeting was a suggestion regarding the Sheboygan Convention in the spring. Here it is

It has been our experience that the host club to our State Conventions are often hard put to finance these gatherings and it should not be said of the Wisconsin Federation that we accept the host Club's hospitality without trying to do something to help along, so here is one way that we can help. Instead of having the annual auction a free-for-all, lets make it a donation auction with the proceeds going to the Sheboygan club to help to defray expenses. Its a fine idea and to start the ball rolling, I do hereby appoint the president and secretary of each member club to act as a committee to solicit donation auction lots from their members. These lots to be sent to the Sheboygan club at least four weeks prior to the date of the Convention. These lots must consist of good, saleable material and be worth at least 50¢ each or more. Each club will be asked to give at least five such lots. I will try to get out a personal letter to all club presidents this month in this matter.

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The biggest stamp meeting that it was our pleasure to attend this summer was the Precancel Stamp Society Convention, held in the Sherman hotel in Chicago. From what I can gather, the attendance at this meet was easily equal to that of both the A.P.S. and the S.P.A.'s. Which shows sompin or other. I estimated an attendance for the three day that I was there of over three hundred dizzy precancel fans - and I was about as dizzy as any of the rest. We roomed with Count Masche, with Henry Goetzelt right next door (on the 15th floor it was), alvin Krause of Milwaukee was just around the corner and Edgar Ames of Manitowoc due east a couple of doors and Pop Davis of Beloit was somewhere around but we never could find him. Wisconsin was well represented.

One week later we accepted the urgent invitation of Clark Collard, President of the North Shore Philatelic Society of Chicago to attend a special gathering in Harry Lindquist's honor. And any time we can do honor to the beloved president of our National Federation, we are right on the job. Verne Kaub and daughter Dorothy went along on this trip and enjoyed a splendid banquet at the Sovereign Hotel. Following the banquet, the meeting was adjourned to the assembly room adjoining. Here we listened to prominent members of the hobby from Chicago and other cities. But when we were called upon for our part in the program, imagine our surprise and injured dignity when we were merely asked to politely take a bow! Great Stuff! But it was interesting to see how skillfully those North Shore fans snubbed our Wisconsin Federation. In spite of this, we did get a lot of good out of Harry Lindquist's talk. He can always say something and be at home where ever he may be - thats one of the marks of greatness.

Last spring we made a vow to visit as many of the affiliated clubs this year as we possibly could. In line with this we have thus far been able to be with the folks of Racine, Wautoma, Waupaca and Ripon. We hope to visit Milwaukee soo and as many more as would like to have us come. It will be appreciated if the secretary will arrange any dates that your club would like to have the Federation's president visit with them.

From now on, if your secretary doesn't send in news of your club, we will be right out after it. This bulletin is for the whole Federation - we want to make it interesting to all of you.

Remember that the annual meeting this year is to be held in the city of Sheboygan - the date will be sometime during the latter part of April or the first of May - we will let you know just as soon as it has been decided upon. There will be the big state stamp show and I urge as many as can to start work on their exhibits. We want to make this as good a show as the Green Bay Club staged last spring, and that means work.

The committee on revision of the rules and regulations governing our stamp shows will be as follows: Albert Draves, Chairman, Major Ellis, Camp Douglas; Ray Van Handel, Sheboygan; Judge Spengler, Menasha and Alfred Brechlin of Oshkosh. Do your stuff now men and make it good.

And thats all until the October Bulletin comes around.
With best wishes

Fraternally yours,

Charley Achtenberg,

President Wisconsin Federation
of Stamp Clubs.

