

AUGUST 2005

Editor: Bill Snyder

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The Prez Sez – It's About Time!!!

You ask – it's about time for *What?* This is not relevant because as far as we know *What* is still at second and *Who* is still at first. Please check with Lou for the rest of the lineup (Lou as in Costello, not DiFelice or Leidig). To get to the point, our topic this month is about *time*, as in *when?*

A not uncommon challenge facing philatelists is the dating, or approximate dating, of covers or postcards that lack year dates in the cancel or which have unclear year dates. Often, the date of a cover is very important to us as postal historians. In a recent issue of *The Card*, the newsletter of the Lancaster County Postcard Club, Editor Jim Ward shared some knowledge related to the dating of covers and postcards. The guidelines include:

- Two digit, postal zone numbers (Example: Phila. 20 PA) were first used in May 1943. This information is of special value in dating WWII military covers, many of which lack dating in their cancels.
- Five digit zip codes (Example: Lancaster, PA 17601) were first used in July 1963.
- Three digit area phone codes (Example: 555-2463 rather than KL5-2463) were first used in November 1951. This information is of value when dating commercial covers with a corner card that includes a phone number.

Another way to narrow the time frame of covers which are lacking year date information is to know when specific postal rates were in effect. In last month's article I recommended owning at least one Scott catalog. If your catalog of choice is the Scott U.S. Specialized, valuable rate information is provided. In the 2005 edition it is to be found on pages 39A and 40A.

In applying rate information to WWII military covers, if a person in the military wanted their mail to travel by air, rather than water and land, they had to relinquish their free franking privilege and use air mail stamps instead. Thus, a cover's postage reveals the following date/rate relationship:

Six cents postage – 7/1/34 till 3/25/44

Eight cents postage – 3/26/44 till 9/30/46

Five cents postage – 10/1/46 till 12/31/48

As in some of my past articles, lurking behind a few mini bits of information there is a more dominant idea to be pondered. This month I would like to challenge you to give thought to whether you are a *philatelic collector* or a *philatelist*?

A *philatelic collector* is someone who obtains and enjoys stamps and covers as end products. Enjoyment is found through the search for them, followed by their organization and viewing. A *philatelist*, on the other hand, takes one step further by going beyond viewing stamps and covers as end products and, instead, pursues relevant research related to the material. What was shared in this article is a very small specimen of philatelic research.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with being a philatelic collector. However, I believe that the enjoyment of our hobby grows in leaps and bounds when we do philatelic research through books, magazines, article files, information notebooks, etc.

We know that *What* is at second base, but what are you – a *philatelic collector* or a *philatelist*?

Best regards, Al

Minutes, LCPS Meeting, July 13, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. Our guests were Steve Wonder, Karl Brown, and Peter Billis's mother-in-law, from Ukraine! Tom Howard and wife, Joan, were present also. Tom actually is a member and also was our guest speaker for the evening.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted.
Minutes were accepted as per the July newsletter.

☺☀☺ The August meeting will be our ANNUAL PICNIC ☺☀☺
Wednesday, August 10 at 6:30 p.m.

The picnic will be at the home of Marilyn and Chuck Shirley, 19 Circle Road, in Millersville. The club will provide grilled chicken and corn-on-the-cob. Everyone who attends is asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Please let Marilyn know what you will bring. Phone: 872-2479

A "Strategic Financial Planning Committee" was formed including Jim Boyles, Al Schaub, Bill Greiner and Lou DiFelice.

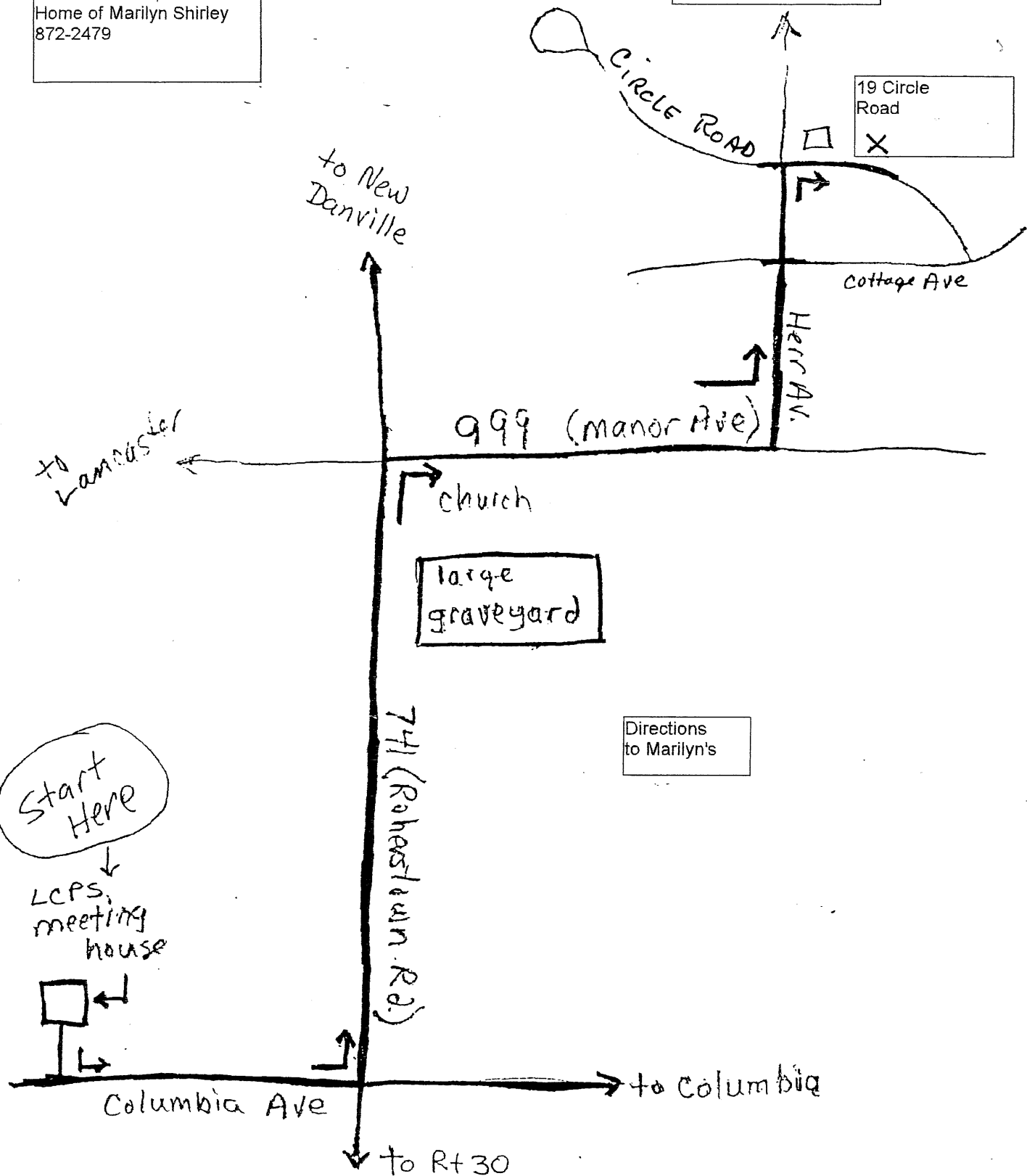
The Society is still considering a joint bus trip, with the York and Lebanon clubs, to the next International Stamp Show on May 27 – June 3, 2006, in Washington, D.C.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. Eleanor Wheeler, Secretary

LCPS--Summer Picnic
6:00 p.m., August 10, 2005
19 Circle Road, Millersville
Home of Marilyn Shirley
872-2479

Penn Manor H. S.

19 Circle Road
X





19 Circle Road
Millersville, PA 17551



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From the Editor

A new web site of possible interest to members: The Rare Stamp Exchange--www.rarestampexchange.com. The site features US & foreign stamps costing \$100 or more. The site is also, according to Linn's, "a reference archive for rare and scarce stamps of the world." Sellers must pay to list their stamps; samplers of the site, however, can look free. But to buy you must become a member of the Exchange, which has an annual fee of \$25. The Exchange is the work of Michael Aldrich, a well-established dealer; the reference section that accompanies the listed stamps has gotten fine reviews.

Greater York Stamp Fair will be held at the Commonwealth Fire Company, 2045 N. Sherman Street, York, PA, on 7 August. For details, call 717-382-4632.

VALPEX 2005, sponsored by the Spring-Ford Philatelic Society, will be held at Ken Reed's Auction House, 65 E. Bridge Street, Spring City, PA, on 17-18 September. 20+ dealers. For details, call 610-970-5408.

The Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition will be held at the Valley Forge Convention Center, 1160 First Avenue, King or Prussia, PA, September 30-October 2. 60 dealers. For details, call 610-321-0740.