

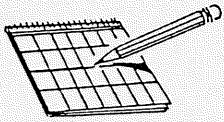
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LANCASTER COUNTY
POST OFFICE BOX 982
LANCASTER, PA 17603

MEETINGS - 2nd Wednesday of each month
STAUFFER MANSION at 7:30 P.M.
1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
Next Meeting-Wednesday, OCTOBER 9, 1991

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OCTOBER 1991



From the President

Whether you know it or not, it is hunting season in Lancaster County. Yes, I know that it is dove season right now but put that old shotgun down because that is not the type of hunting I am talking about. What the Lancaster County Philatelic Society is looking for are people to run for Vice-President of the organization. During the month of October we have to nominate persons to run for the office and then in November elections to elect someone.

Now I know from past experience that the prey we seek is a wily creature that sometimes tries to avoid detection. If you have ever been to a meeting where we are nominating officers of the club, you know how hard it is to find volunteers. This year there is only one position to fill and that is for vice-president. Currently Leslie Botte is serving as vice-president. Because of our new bylaws, she will move up to be president next year. That means the vice-president slot will be open.

What does it take to be vice-president? First it should be someone who plans to attend most of the meetings during the year. One of the reasons for this is the vice-president is supposed to understudy the presidency so he/she is prepared to take over as president during the second year of the two-year term. Secondly, the person should be flexible. As vice-president you may be asked at a moment's notice to step in for the president. Not that those occasions turn up too often; there may be an occasional opportunity, but like the vice-president of the United States, don't expect to be in the lime light very often. Finally, the candidate should be concerned about the best inter-

ests of the society. As you all know, we are a democratic organization and the majority decides which way the club will go. The leaders of the organization are in place to bring forth ideas to better our club and make decisions for us when a majority vote is not necessary. I am sure there are a number of members out there that fit the description I have set down.

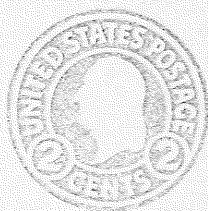
By the way, if you are worried about the position taking up a large amount of time, let me put your mind at ease. Since we have revamped our organizational structure, the time spent by the president on organization business has been cut way down. I probably spend about ten hours a month actually doing organizational business -- not a lot of time in a 720-hour month.

I hope to see at least two or three people enter their names for the office of vice-president. You can count on my help and I am sure Leslie's help when you become vice-president. Come on -- give it a try!!

-- Dick Shaefer, President

OCTOBER PROGRAM

If you recall the advance notice of the October Program in the September issue of the newsletter, we wrote that a repeat of the "Collectors' Bourse" would be a fun evening as members would play 8 "Dealer For A Night". One dollar payable to the Treasurer will get you table space to display your wares for sale to other members and guests. You will not be limited to stamps, but can bring anything collectible such as coins, baseball cards, postcards, old pens, etc. So dig out your surplus stamps and anything collectible that has been laying about collecting dust and dispose of it, possibly spending the proceeds at the next member's display.



HOW TO COLLECT POSTAL STATIONERY

PART III

(Continued From Last Month)

Some people have seen the advantages of collecting Postal Stationery, but have hesitated to do so because of some of the challenges it presents. In fact, however, it is quite as easy to form a collection of stationery as it is to collect adhesives. And it is perhaps less expensive.

Everyone receives items of Postal Stationery in his mail every week and if these are saved, a small but interesting collection will soon accumulate. For those in more of a hurry, auction houses dispose of stationery, either as single rare items, in groups, or in sizable collections. There are fewer dealers of stationery than of adhesives since there are fewer collectors, but there are enough to provide good sources of material at competitive prices.

One of the best ways to build a collection is from the Sales Circuits of the United Postal Stationery Society. Other collectors dispose of their duplicates through these circuits, often at prices which are not only reasonable, but frequently at real bargains. A few hints on collecting Postal Stationery may answer some of the beginner's questions:

(1) All stationery should be saved entire. Postal cards are never collected as "cut squares" and the modern trend is against collecting envelopes and wrappers that way. To detect such varieties as watermarks, differences in printed headings, or kind of flap on envelopes, it is usually necessary to have entire specimens.

(2) There are albums available, but it is not necessary to use one. UPSS offers album pages for U.S. cut squares, as well as pages for U.S. aerogrammes. A very good album for United States Postal Cards has been published by Scott, with printed places for each of the major varieties. Several companies offer blank albums with cellulose pockets for individual items. Some collectors make their own albums, others prefer to use a file.

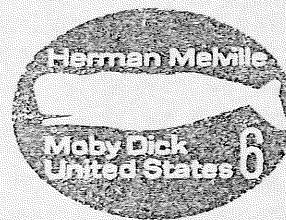
(3) Even though stationery is not as fragile as stamps, care should be taken to keep it in as fine a condition as when it left the post office. Hinges should never be used to mount Postal Stationery, as they tend to disfigure the specimens. Corner mounts should be used instead. UPSS makes these available to collectors.

Some collectors write catalogue numbers on Postal Stationery specimens. This should be done only when absolutely necessary. Then the writing should be only on the back, lightly, with a soft pencil.

(4) Some collectors prefer mint copies, since they present a clean, neat appearance. Others prefer postally used ones, which often are interesting for the postal markings and messages on them. Some collectors try to obtain a specimen of each.

(5) Catalogues are as necessary for Postal Stationery as for adhesives. They are the most convenient source of information regarding size and date of issue, size of perforations of letter cards, kind of envelope flaps, design, watermarks, and purpose of issue.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



MEET LESTER, THE PERFECTIONIST

When Newsletter staff members Sarah Brown and Marilyn Shirley pressed Lester Mumma's buzzer and were admitted, they expected to see a house in disarray with bowls of stamps soaking and stacks of wet, messy newspapers with layers of stamps intermixed cluttering the kitchen table and countertops. No stamp paraphernalia next to open albums and piles of stamps were to be seen anywhere. And where might be the odd shaped cartons tied with old string stacked in every corner of the room? (Editor's note: I have just described my own den).

Lester's home was neat as a pin with not a shredded glassine envelope or used hinge to give evidence that Lester has been a stamp collector for 65 of his 83 years. Born in Lancaster on 7-18-07, Lester attended the Rockland Street Grade School and Lancaster's Boys High School. Both institutions have long since passed into memory. Upon graduating from high school, Lester spent the next 46 years at Armstrong in the printing department that put the designs on Quaker Maid and other linoleum rugs.

He made a fortuitous contact at Armstrong who provided Lester with the stamps from all the domestic and foreign mail that flowed through the office daily.

With such a plethora of stamps to choose from, he early on decided on the course his stamp collecting would take. He decided to collect only used U.S. stamps. After setting aside the foreign to trade at a later time, he divided his stamps into three grades. The first was the perfect stamp with full margins, with perforations intact and light or socked-on-the-nose cancels. The second grade would have unequal margins, a little heavier cancel. The third would be the least acceptable grade that he considered collectible. He would fill page after page of the same stamp and file the books neatly on bookshelves. An example of his holdings would be the 2500 1892 Columbian issue stamps he has meticulously filed away.

Upon retiring from Armstrong he had ample opportunity to immerse himself even deeper in his hobby. A second contact, this time in a Harrisburg government office, provided Lester with an even larger supply of used stamps. In case you are wondering what became of the thousands of stamps he found unsuitable, well, he donates the stamps to St. Peter's Lutheran Church which in turn sells them to dealers, using the proceeds to purchase kitchen equipment for the Lutheran Home. He culls the precancelled stamps from his mixtures and sends them to a collector in New Hampshire who returns more U.S. stamps to him!

Lester is a Life Member of the APS, a member of the Red Rose Coin Club and attends Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, one of the oldest in Pennsylvania, with tombstones in its cemetery dating to 1619. Interestingly, Lester met his future bride in his own home. His mother operated a rooming house and his wife-to-be was a boarder. Bertha Lashley was a teacher at Lancaster Business College. Their marriage has prospered for 53 years and produced three girls and one boy who in turn blessed them with six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, including a set of twin girls.

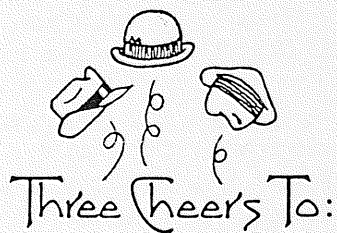
A member of LCPS for 15 years, he has served as Treasurer for 10 years. No, Dick Schaefer was not the club president when Lester joined, it only seems that way to Dick. The honor correctly belongs to Lew Matt. Thank you, Lester, for your lifetime of devotion to the hobby of stamp collecting and for your years of service to the club. God Bless You.

HOST FOR



Lucy Eyster will be in charge of refreshments at the OCTOBER MEETING.

The club will be accepting nominations for Vice-President at the October meeting. If you have never served as an officer of the club or did so many years ago, why not volunteer. The term will run for two years and the biggest responsibility will be to watch how the President presides over the monthly meetings as well as how he/she conducts routine club business. As Vice-President you will be in charge in the absence of the President.



Ott Kirchner who has volunteered to fill a most important post in the club: PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party this year will be held at the upscale Brunswick Hotel in a private dining room festively decorated for the holiday season. The committee who negotiated the affair with the Brunswick say the decor and atmosphere is breath taking. There will be a Christmas program which everyone is sure to enjoy based on previous parties. Enclosed with this newsletter is the "Winter Wonderland" dinner menu. In addition, off street parking (in the Duke Street Parking Garage) will be available to attendees at a cost of \$1.00 from 5:00 P.M. to 12:00 Midnight. If the weather is inclement you won't come into the hotel feeling like a damp sponge. At this writing the price per ticket has not been determined. Please plan to come and have the time of your life!

The name of Frank Weber, a Life Member, was inadvertently dropped from the membership list. His name has been put back on the roll. Sorry about that, Frank.

