

IN MEMORIUM

ADRIAN was a quiet man, never raising his voice or being contentious, he was there almost every meeting, supporting whatever activity in which the Club was involved. Less than two weeks before his death, and grave ill, he went on the Club's Bus Trip to Washington, D.C. His only concern was that others on the trip might be inconvenienced because of his frequent need to rest. One can only say that he enjoyed his stamp collecting hobby almost to the end.

So what is the measure of a true philatelist? I really don't know. But I submit that ADRIAN R. MECK must truly be one of the elite. Not because of his vast store of philatelic knowledge, although he might have possessed it, or an outstanding collection of early U.S. imperforate issues which he might have owned, but for his genuine love of stamps will he be remembered by his fellow club members and all who had the good fortune to be associated with him in the pursuit of that one elusive stamp.

Adrian R. Meck, 72, lived in Lancaster

Adrian R. Meck, 72, of 545 S. Prince St., died Monday morning at Lancaster General Hospital of natural causes.

He and his wife, Hetty E. Asper Meck, observed their 51st anniversary on Aug. 4.

Born in Irish Valley (Shamokin), he was a son of the late Albert F. and Abigail F. Sober Meck.



Adrian R. Meck

An electronic technician, he had been employed by Eisenberger's Television Service, Lancaster, for 21 years, retiring in 1989. After retirement, he worked part time at Ultra Graphics Printing Co. until shortly before his death.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II in the South Pacific in the coast artillery and anti-aircraft unit.

A stamp and coin collector. he was a member of the Philatelic Club of Lancaster, American Numismatic Association and the Red Rose Coin Club. He also was a member of the Knights of Columbus No. 867, Lancaster, where he was a Santa Maria 4th Degree Knight: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7294, Millersville; American Legion Post 34, Lancaster; and Union Fire Company 1, Lancaster. He was a life member of the Strasburg Sportsman's Association and was a member of the Lancaster YMCA for 35 years.

Surviving in addition to his wife are a son, Robert A., husband of Sharon L. of Lancaster; two daughters. Sister Constance Therese I.H.M. of Lancaster and Adrienne M., wife of Almore Robb of Manheim: 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister. Ruthann, wife of Orville Weikel of Northumberland.

MEETINGS, 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH TIME: 7:30 P.M. LANCASTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER Lincoln Highway West, Maple Grove Lancaster, PA 17603 Next Meeting - Wed., April 9, 1997

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CLUB CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717) 872-2479

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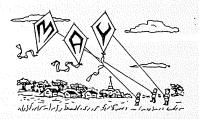
I've just gotten home from helping to unload exhibit frames back into Jim's garage. The show closed today (Sunday) at 5:00 p.m. and by 7:00 p.m. Jim was pulling his garage doors closed (while Dick Shaefer pushed) and our stamp show supplies were going to sleep until next year. Dealers, collectors, and club members all felt it was a pleasant, successful show from the comments I overheard. A special thank you to ALL club members and their friends who devoted time and sweat to help run this show. Many hands do make the work lighter. While I hesitate to single out any particular individuals, I will commend JACK DEANER and BOB STEVENSON for the help they gave because they didn't know what they were getting into but spent many hours helping with whatever needed to be done.

The meeting this month will be an informal chat with out favorite postal employee, Kay Herr. Jot down a question or thought for her so we get the conversational ball rolling.

The June meeting is a stamp auction. I mention it now so that you have at least 5 weeks to get some "stuff" together.

See you at the May meeting.

Lucy



MAY HOST AND HOSTESS-

One of the few married couples that belong to our club will be providing the refreshments for this month's meeting. TRUYDE AND BILL GREINER will do the honors. They worked so hard at LANCOPEX, we doubt they will recover for a "Big Feed", but we know it will be good just the same!!!

-MAY PROGRAM-

Our favorite postal employee, KAY HERR, is going to be our speaker for the evening. This will be an informal, but informative, chat. We are very pleased Kay could find the time to fit LCPS in her busy schedule.



SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS ON STAMPS AND COLLECTING

- -- What would you say if you went to the butcher and asked for a pound of steak at \$2.00 a pound. The butcher tosses the steak on his scale, reads one pound, one ounce, and says "That will be \$4.00, please." Your reaction?? Outrage! But the USPS does it to you every time you mail a letter or parcel.
- -- Fine used copies of U.S. commemorative stamps ought to cost is much as mint copies on the secondary market, i.e., when bought from a dealer.
- -- Some of the factors contributing to the difficulty in finding a collectable used stamp are:
- a. The killer cancels often applied to stamps on packages and letters.
- b. The high speed cancelling machines scuff the stamp either tearing or scraping the surface. The small, regular issue stamps added to make up the current postage rate usually remain intact.
- c. Have you been disappointed to find many used commemorative stamps with the corners torn off. It seems the USPS is using a perf. 10 ostensibly to save money over a perf.11 or 12, coupled with the surface coating on the modern tamp makes it difficult to separate the stamp from a sheet intact.

- d. Finally, unless you ask for commemorative stamps on your letter or package, for which you will perceive a pained expression on the face of the harried clerk, he/she will slap a metered stamp on your mailing.
- -- If I were to collect stamps for the sheer pleasure of doing so, I'd collect postally used only.

-- Jim Lyman

DOLLAR\$, and ÇENTS

THE TIGHTWAD

Not sure if your letter weighs more than an ounce? Don't have a postal scale? Then THE TIGHTWAD GAZETTE has a tip for you.

Lay a pencil on the table. Place a 12-inch ruler across the pencil, centering it on the 6-inch mark. Place five quarters on the 3-inch mark, and center your letter on the 9-inch mark.

Five quarters weigh exactly 1 ounce, so if the homemade scale doesn't tip to raise your quarters, your letter weighs less than 1 ounce.

If it does tip, you'll need to have a 23 cent stamp handy to pay that second ounce.

-- "The Insider," Les Winick

BUS TRIP COMMENTS



"I liked the U.S. Botanic Gardens"
-- Mike Shirley

"We toured Capitol Hill and Union Station Postal Museum. Enjoyed the kites flying around the Washington Monument." -- J.P. and Emily Wilcox.

Enjoyed the guided tour in National Cathedral and the Kite show at Washington Monument." -- Fred and Mary Husson.

"Union Station was unexpectedly architecturally beautiful. shops filled with brightly colored wares, well-lit and clean. The trolley tour through Washington, D.C. gleaned forgotten facts from childhood lessons and Holocaust Museum was moving beyond words! Company was friendly and enjoyable. Please do this again and invite us! Thank you so much. PS. The snacks were very welcome and nutritious" -- Guest from York Club.

"I never had more hospitality on a bus trip!! Good munchies for a hungry crew! A tiresome bus but well worth it. The Grey Line Trolley gave a good informative overview of all. Only complaint: Bus should have returned later."

-- Mary Ann Lutz

"I most enjoyed getting to spend the day with a close college friend who lives in Virginia. It was great to see her after a year. Also the food service on the bus was great!" -- Deb Zamboni

"Postal Museum was very interesting - loved the kites - the Holocaust Museum is a must-see. Best of all, a delightful group of people on the bus!" -- Alice Zamboni

"Nice people, great snacks and lovely weather. All in all, a nice day. We did some sightseeing on the Tour Bus and saw some things we didn't see last time." -- florence and Jerry Kotek (York)

"Botanic Garden was a big hit! Loved the gift shop at the gardens. - Reflecting Pool was great - Jim enjoyed the Postal Museum and Union Station and the food - Washington Monument and Capital also." -- Aurdey and Jim Boyles

"Seeing the names of the young men who gave their lives at the Vietnam Memorial. Spending the day with great company (and seeing the green octopus kite). - Worst, eating this cinnamon dessert." (Note: not provided by the trip committee) -- Peter Billis and Allison Young

"Enjoyed the Postal Museum immensely, especially the Railway Post Office exhibit, being a train buff. Also found some interesting shops in Union Station. Thanks for asking the White Rose folks along!" -- Brad Hilliard

"Best thing was being invited along from the York Club - Thanks. Enjoyed the Postal Museum (again) and Union Station is great. Didn't have any worst thing to write about." -- Gordon Miuor

"Best thing, went to Holocaust Museum and food treats on the bus trip. No comment on worst thing -- Al Zamboni

"National Art Gallery along with Postal Museum" -- S. Simmons

"Two places seems to be the limit of what can be absorbed in one day. Shirley and I went to the National Gallery of Art to see the Ancient Art Treasures of China and the Picasso Early Years Exhibits. (There is an excellent buffet/cafe here, too). The Postal Museum had a fine "junk" mail exhibit. -- Lucy Eyster

"Enjoyed Postal Museum." -- Linda and Denise Shirley (ages 8 and 11)

"I liked the Postal Museum and the Air and Space Museum. I like to be with my cousins, Linda and Denise.
-- Owen Dietz (age 8)

"Enjoyed Postal Exhibit. Washington Monument and Tourmovile was worth it. Arlington Cemetery was interesting." -- Adrian Meck, Adrienne Robb and Steven Robb.

"The flower beds around the Capital were beautiful. Sorry we missed the Cherry blossoms, but the flowering trees were just as lovely." -- Cookie Will and Bert Steif

"One could spend hours in the ostal Museum and still not see everything. An annual visit would be great if one could not visit more often." -- Mazie and Mark King

"A beautiful sunny day to view the White House. Had a great time seeing the dinosaurs in the National History Museum." -- Chuck and Donna Kilgore

"Had a very nice day at the Postal Museum with lunch at Union Station. The exhibits were well presented, but was disappointed that there wasn't a section on early U.S. stamps." -- Gary Kurtz

"We had never toured Washington before today. We saw everything we came to see with time to spare. A wonderful sunny day." -- Dan and Jackie Anspach

"Bus trips are lots of fun, but this one is the greatest. We enjoyed the Chinese Exhibit at the National Art Gallery, the Botanic Gardens and being able to take our grandchildren with us." -- Chuck and Marilyn Shirley

A. Winston Harris, in an issue of Horn," wrote "Trader's delightful what of account transpired when the U.S. government, with the most innocent of intentions, issued a new nickel design in 1883. The expression "All that glitters is not gold" is pertinent to the story. Did it originate in the bible, did Shakespeare weave it into sonnet, or did wise Ben Franklin first utter it?

Anyone who can identify the author by the time the May meeting rolls around, will be recognized in the June Newsletter. But now, on to the tale of the 1883 nickel whose story will forever be told as long as people collect coins.



OBVERSE



ORIGINAL REVERSE



REDRAWN REVERSE

You can own mischievous money and be completely unaware of its criminal history. That's possible because the object of all "Racketeer Money" is to appear to be something it is not! Truly, " all that glitters is not gold."

The validity of this wise expression is attested to by the following events which happened in the United States in 1883. In that year, that United States saw fit to introduce a new five-cent nickel piece. Its designer, Charles E. Barber, chose the (front) of the coin. On the reverse, Barber created a design which was destined to change the lives of saloon keepers across the country, and many other as things turned out.

For some unknown reason, Mr. Barber placed a large Roman Numeral "V" on the reverse side of the coin, but omitted the word "cents" to identify the coin's denomination. Perhaps the reason was simply that Chuck Barber, an honest man, had no idea of what men with lesser scruples could do with his new nickel.

The coin was placed in circulation early in 1883, and within days those of shady character saw an opportunity for quick profit! Among them was a man by the name of Joshua Tatum, from the eastern United States. Immediately, Josh began buying up the new nickels and gold-plating them. Then, he traveled from town to town frequenting local saloons and smoke shops.

When a bartender served him his preference, Josh would hand the bartender one of his gold-plated nickels. The bartender, thinking

the coin to be a new five-dollar gold piece, would give Josh change for \$5.00! Then, off Josh went to the next saloon or smoke shop, etc. Others engaged in the same shenanigans, particularly in the Old West, where news of the gold-plated concoctions was slow to travel. But Joshua Tatum was easily the king of coin flim-flam.

After numerous complaints, Joshua Tatum was finally arrested and brought to trial. Some say he was acquitted because he was a deaf mute and nobody could prove he claimed the nickels were \$5.00 gold pieces. The actual ruling of the court that acquitted him stated, "It was not illegal to accept \$4.95 in change as a GIFT and the clerks had defrauded themselves." Perhaps this ruling proves better than any other that justice is truly blind.

Soon thereafter, the government had Charles Barber add the word "cents" to the new nickel, and the problem was solved.

Well, most of you have undoubtedly heard the expression, "I'm just joshin' ya!" For whatever it's worth, Josh Tatum goes down in history as being the reason for that expression! (I'm not joshin' ya, all that glitters is not gold!)



The family of LESTER MUMMA is asking the club if anyone would be willing to help them with Lester's stamp collection. They do not know how to handle it. Perhaps we could form a small committee to aid this family with the disposal of his stamps.

--THE-ANSWER-MAN

(The answer to questions that you never thought worth asking.)

I don't want to really ask 0: anything, I just wanted to thank you so very much for suggestion that I join a stamp club. I was warmly welcomed at the Parump chapter here in Nevada. The meeting began with a reading of "the minutes" during which the point was made that our petty cash was running low due to a scant number of dues-paying members and virtually no new members. It was also moved and seconded that we hold this year's Christmas dinner gala at the House of Chong on Highway 9b, exit 12. Then we sat around and watched a delightful slide show entitled "Exotic ink smudges and perf shifts on 1889 tax stamps of Guatemala." As soon as we get more petty cash we're going to buy a screen. Seeing as how there was no time left for trading, the motion was made by Miss Peabody to adjourn. I'm coming back next month; I've been asked to join!

A: Good going!



AMERICAN DOLLS IN 1997

Fifteen commemorative stamps depicting historic American dolls will be issued this year by USPS.

The dolls will be identified on the horizontal selvage at the bottom of the pane. Each stamp has only USA and \$.32 printed on it. No release date has been set for this issue.

Each stamp pictures one or two dolls from the Ludwig Greiner doll of 1858, representing the first patented doll design to modern dolls such as Skippy and American Child. Among the most recognizable of the dolls in the issue is Raggedy Ann which is still produced today by the Hasbro Company.

The Postal Service plans to issue 107 million of the American Doll Stamps. (Linn's Stamp News)

MEMBERSHIP LISTING AVAILABLE

An updated membership listing of current L.C.P.S. members will be available to everyone. You may pick up your list at the club meetings. If you are unable to attend the meetings, get in touch with LUCY EYSTER or MARILYN SHIRLEY and we will see that you receive your printout.

