

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173

**Club Picnic: Wednesday, 11 August 2010**

**6:00 PM**

**Millersville Freedom Memorial Park**

## Message from the President

John R. Ahlfeld

I hope everyone is looking forward to our annual picnic at Millersville's Freedom Memorial Park, the same place as last year. (See details below.) Note that everyone is asked to bring an appetizer, a salad, or a dessert. Also, if you have an outdoor game that you think people would enjoy, please bring it along.

It was interesting in a recent issue to read about what stamps our members don't like. How about the

reverse. What do you collect? I began in elementary school collecting United States, then I went worldwide, then got interested for a while in mint British colonies, and then returned to United States. Here I'll collect about anything from one end of the book to the other. I guess that I have been more interested in quantity than value. I get interested in one subcategory, and then another...everything from

examples of each kind of revenue, to different plate numbers and positions of the 1¢ presidential, to different first day covers of the 1967 urban planning stamp (I was at the American Institute of Planners' conference where the first day of issue was held).

As I look through my new set of worldwide catalogues, I think of all kinds of subcategories to collect such as the history of architecture on stamps, national leaders, animals, one stamp from each stamp-issuing country or entity. Or how about stamps from the year the collector was born? We've seen Lucy's unusual stamps; Diane will speak in November about hearts on stamps, *etcetera, etcetera*.

So, what categories do you collect now or in the past? Why not email Paul or me? We can have an article in a future newsletter.

It is not too early to think about what you'll take for the club's next auction which is scheduled for the September 8th meeting. I hope a lot of you will participate and have a lot to sell. In the meantime, see you at the picnic. **John**

## Annual PSLC Picnic



**Wednesday, 11 August 2010**

**6:00 PM Millersville Boro Park**

*Please bring an appetizer, a salad, or a dessert*

**Burgers, hotdogs, baked beans, and drinks will be served**

**Directions:** Driving west into Millersville from Lancaster on 999, the Park is on the north side of 999 just across from the intersection of George Street. Also across the street from the park is the Barn Door Restaurant. The club pavilion is at the far end of the park parking lot.

**Volume 73, Issue 8**

**August, 2010**

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PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa, 2000 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA at 7:00 PM

**President:**

John R. Ahlfeld

**Vice President:**

John Bray

**Secretary:**

Joy Bouchard

**Treasurer:**

Clair Smith

**Newsletter Editor:**

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640

pcpetersen@comcast.net



### New in *Linn's*?

A review of the 7/12/10 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* (See Pg. 3) contains a wealth of interesting information for stamp collectors.

- The *Sunday Funnies Stamps* will be released 16 July at the Cartoon Library in Columbus, OH.
- Jay Bigalke reports that there are about 36 philatelic windows left in the U.S. He visited San Diego and Albuquerque, and they will take mail orders.
- In a letter to the editor, WH Robbins advised collectors to smarten up. For those who want the PO to cater to collectors, they only have to remember when this was done before, giving us Seebecks, Fourniers, Speratis, cancelled-to-order Sand Dune and iron curtain stamps, and other album weeds.
- John Hotchner argued against the USPS overprinting and surcharging existing U.S. stamps as a way to recycle stamps as opposed to destroying them.
- Mike Piazza, asst. curator of the USPM decried it as "sanitizing history" when the Smithsonian decided to remove the cigarette and holder from the image of FDR for the last year's exhibit.
- *U.S.A. Philatelic* magazine was criticized for using older bar codes in their mailings instead of the new "intelligent mail" that USPS requires for all other mail automation discounts.
- Alphonse Mucha was honored on a recent Czech Republic stamp.
- Sociologist Jack Trammell penned an extended column about stamps as artifacts of Western Culture. "The images and references on stamps change and educate the viewer who sees them (pg. 49)".
- Janet Klug's **Refresher Course** covered proper hinging techniques to prevent damage to both stamps and albums.

## Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports Joy Bouchard & Clair Smith: July, 2010

**Opening:** VP John Bray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Membership:** New member Len Kasper introduced his granddaughter, Morgan who has a worldwide album. Carl Haffly introduced his granddaughter, April who collects postcards and coins. Bob Rothan visited the PSLC meeting last month and joined the club effective this month. Welcome all.

**June Minutes:** These were approved as written.

**July Drawing:** Woodie Hann won a sheet of "Adopt a Pet" stamps.

**Club Picnic:** A show of hands indicated about 40 club members and visitors intend to attend the event.

**Misc:** Paul Petersen said that he would demonstrate how to remove "unsoakable" stamps from covers following the slide show this evening. He referred the membership to the July club newsletter for information on the products needed to accomplish this.

**Program:** Jim Boyles presented the APS slide show entitled the *World Columbian Exposition (1893)*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Clair Smith reported that he opened a new Certificate of Deposit with \$2000 from the checking account. The club's three CDs now total \$6433.87.

### June Balance:

**Opening:** \$5,928.32 (1 June)

**Income:** \$20.19

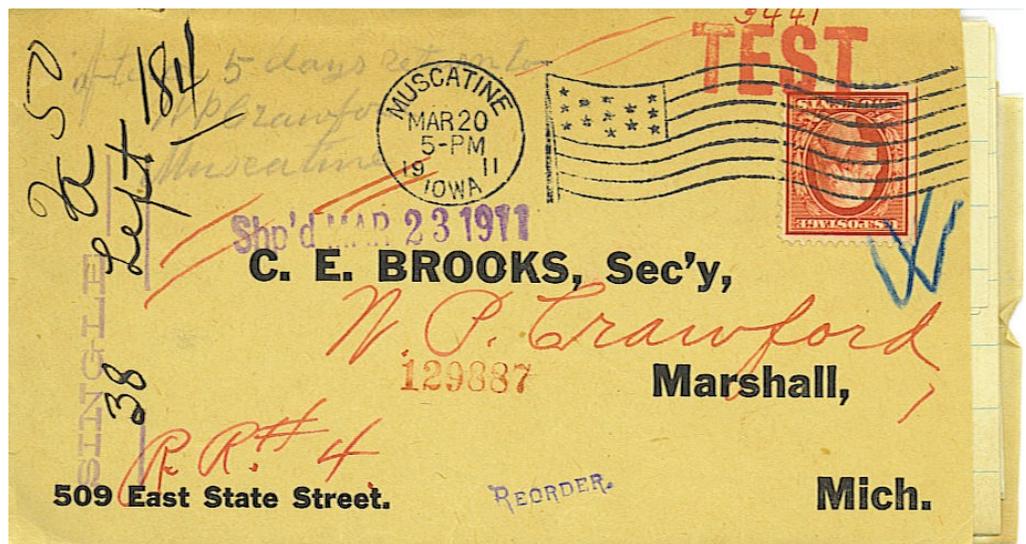
**Expenses:** \$2022.00

**Closing:** \$3,926.51 (30 June)



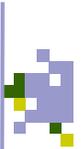
### Spot the Difference

Look quickly at the Republic of South Africa pair. What is the difference? One is in English, while the other is in Afrikaans. The RSA printed bilingual pairs for years.



### An Interesting Cover Deserving Philatelic Thought

What can be said about this interesting cover? Are they auxiliary markings? See pg. 4.



# Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows, & International

## 2010 Programs and Hosts

- 11 August:** *Summer Picnic.*
- 8 September:** *Club Auction.* Host-Dick Shaefer
- 13 October:** *King George V and the Royal Collection.* Paul Petersen. Host-Lucy Eyster,
- 10 November:** *Hearts on Stamps.* Diane Meek. Host-John Brownell
- 8 December:** *Christmas Party.* No host

## Upcoming Show Reminders:

- Some Sunday Stamp Shows,* Farm & Home Center: • 19 Sept. • 5 Dec. (Please verify ahead with James G. Boyles: 394-5118). The *72nd Balpex:* 3-5 September at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn. *The Baltimore Friendly Stamp & Coin Show:* 15 August & 19 September at The Pikesville Hilton on 1726 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore.
- International:** Long term club visitor, Brian Wagner will be

returning to the mission field in Kenya in a few weeks. He was instrumental in starting the stamp trading at meetings earlier this year and he would greatly welcome email from any or all PSLC club members at [bbwagner@gmail.com](mailto:bbwagner@gmail.com).

**London 2010:** Dick Colberg has promotional and other philatelic items related to the UK's internet stamp show held in May. Let him know if you would like to view this.

# My Stamp Vacation in Denver: The American Topical Assn. Show

Lucy Eyster, PSLC Membership Chairwoman

After spending many hours on the computer organizing "My Collection of Unusual Stamps" (7 pages) and "Want list as of 5/18/10" (4 pages), I was ready to depart by train for Denver, CO on Monday, June 21. Arriving on Wednesday, it wasn't long before some familiar faces began to check in at the Crown Plaza Hotel, the sight for the American Topical Association Stamp Show. Thursday, a group of 12 of us went sightseeing. First, we toured the Denver Mint. Did you know the U.S. stores some of its gold in that facility in addition to Ft. Knox? The building appears to be about 2½ stories but, in fact, it is a 5-story building. I suspect the gold is at the bottom, 2½ stories underground. Our guide didn't take us to view the gold. Next we went to the home of Margaret (Molly) Brown. What a remarkable, colorful woman she was. Truly unsinkable! Our final stop was the Miller-Coors Brewery in Golden-an extremely popular tourist destination. We had an informative tour of the brewing process stopping at a tasting station for a sip of beer before ending the tour. The sip primed our taste buds for the three free glasses of beer that were available. Some of the group are devout beer drinkers. Returning to the hotel during the evening rush hour was the same tedious traffic snarl as any

other American city. The show opened promptly at 10 AM on Friday. Want list, tongs, magnifier, and money in hand, I started asking dealers if they handled new issues. If the answer was yes, I handed them the want list and waited for results. Over the three days of the show I spent a lot of time with only four dealers: Hall's Philatelics, Smyth's Stamp Shoppe, Ed Dimmick, and Keimar Stamps. As I result, I was able to remove 37 items from the want list. But more interestingly, I was able to buy 33 other items I hadn't known existed., but when seen, of course, wanted. There were other things to see and do at the show beside working with dealers. There was a silent auction (where I got two things), 126 frames of exhibits, study group meetings, and open forums. I went to one study group, "Penguins," and one open discussion group, "Meet your new editor, Wayne Youngblood." He had been responsible for only three issues of *Topical Time* to date, using a new computer program (new to him) and completely in color. This is a very steep learning curve for Wayne. What a challenge! Friday evening the ATA members were invited to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. There we were treated to a buffet catered by one of the library's members of salad, barbecued bison, grits and baked beans with ice cream for dessert. After dinner there was a tour of the library, recently expanded to include the

building next door. They shared their plans for the future of the library, and finally, we had time to pursue albums of 10 cent stamps. Of course, I found something to buy for my Unusual Stamps Collection. I think we were all impressed by what has been done by an army of volunteers. At the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, the exhibits Grand Award went to Yukio Onuma of Japan for his 8-frame exhibit, "Ludwig van Beethoven-His Life in a Historical Context and His Legacy." The next day the Most Popular Exhibit Award went to Van Siegling of Ohio for a 7-frame exhibit, "The Magical World of Harry Potter." Monday after the show closed another group of 12 people went sightseeing. The first stop was the Phoenix Gold Mine in Idaho Springs which is open only for tourists, and we panned for gold in their adjacent stream. Then on to a museum specializing in mining around Idaho Springs, Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave Site, Buffalo Herd Overlook Site, and finally, a stop at Red Rock Amphitheatre. It was disappointing that we could not go into the amphitheatre because they were setting up for a concert for that evening. We said our goodbyes over several days as people left for their planes, trains, and vehicles with promises to stay in touch 'till we saw each other again in Milwaukee for the 2011 American Topical Association Show. It promised to be a wonderful event. □

What's new in a recent issue of Linn's Stamp News? (See pg. 2)

**Linn's Stamp NEWS**  
World's Largest Weekly Stamp News and Marketplace

**Popular comics from the Sunday funnies page debut July 16 on five new commemoratives**

**Docored photograph, no-removal policy**

**Giants split dominion among 10 countries**

**What do stamps say about our society?**

**High realizations for classic Swiss covers**





## Musings:

### *Some thought about a bundle of covers*

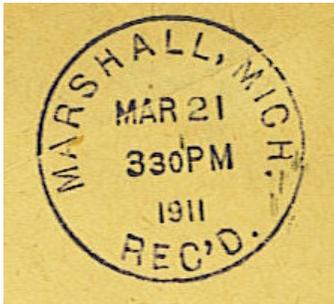
Regarding covers, I am more of an accumulator than a seasoned and informed collector in this area. In fact with covers, I often like the contents (when present) as much as the markings, cachets, and franking.

I purchased the stuffed cover on page 2 knowing that it would provide some philatelic pastime. Later in the same venue, I found twenty other matching covers and got them too, all with one or more documents.

So what about the markings on the cover on page 2? Technically, auxiliary markings are of postal origin such as "Return to Sender," "NIXIE," or "Not At This Address."

This cover's contents helped me identify all the exterior markings but one, the blue letters or design that looks like a Volkswagen symbol that touches the stamp. I'm still not sure about this. It is the only such one.

The cover is postmarked 5:00 PM on 20 March 1911 in Muscatine, IA. The receiving mark is 3:30 PM on 21 March. It is franked with a 2¢ red Washington of the Third Bureau Issue with a 13 star flag cancel.



From the cover's documents, the addressee is the Brooks Rupture Appliance Co. of Marshall, MI. They make hernia trusses for men, women, and children. The cover markings are related to their business transactions.

Each of the envelopes is a customer record with data on the outside and documents on the inside. The documents are largely testimonials (all 21 letters were positive), but some covers contain original order forms with products and prices. A few others had carbon copies of letters to the customer. Of the 21 covers all but two are in the company's brown return envelopes. There were 14 states represented, including many rural addresses.

These brown envelopes served as repositories for both customer order data and testimonials which the company encouraged. Like today, customer endorsement is an important part of successful marketing.

The 21 covers spanned 42 years from 3/11 to 4/53 over four postal rates. The 11/20 cover addressee listed C.E. Brooks, Secretary, and a later cover of 13/32 listed H.C. Brooks, Mgr. as addressee. H.C. Brooks remained listed through 1953.

So what about the markings? The red stamped "TEST" stands for "Testimonial" (contained in the envelope), and the red number (3441) above it is the testi-

monial number. Each cover had a testimonial number, and by 4/53, the number reached 56,567! Doing a little interpolation (which may not be accurate), the projected date of the first testimony would be 6/08.

The 2.50 represents the price received for a Grade-A single truss. The "184" appears to be the model number, but the products are not listed by number on the order form. It may be an in-house number. All but three covers have a number listed. The "189," (6) and the "142 and 142A," (6) are the most common models. There are three other "product numbers" listed.

Beneath the "184" is a purple rubber stamp for single trusses with spaces to list waist size and grade of truss (Grade B is \$3.50 while the A is \$2.50).

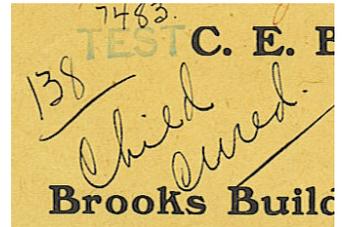
There is a stamped purple shipping date of 23 March 1911. The customer's full name and address is legibly rewritten in the center of the cover. Finally, there is a small rubber stamp in purple ink, "Reorder."

While the illustrated cover does not show it, nine of the other covers have the word "Cured" or "Child Cured," written in hand on the cover. This is a self reported cure rate of 45%. All "cures" were referenced in the letters. This sample represents a 100% (21 of 21) success rate ranging from cure to much

improvement in the rupture.

Positive comments were plentiful. "Genuinely grateful; I will recommend...; Please use my name (my comments) to ...; I tried several products...; I can now do heavy work again, ...fully satisfied, a God send;" and many more.

So, why the interest in trusses? Consider Americana from 1911 to 1953. Hernia surgery was often unavailable in many areas, and it was costly and dangerous. Today there are many new techniques that are safe and minimally invasive. Most of today's surgeons would say that trusses do not work. Perhaps the trusses worked because this was all that was available.



The 22 January 1917 letter from S.P. Wygand of 984 Chancery Lane, Meadville, PA was poignant. It contained strong testimony regarding his little daughter. He noted that the appliance "cured her intirely (*sic*). It sertenly (*sic*) saved me from one to two hundred dollars having an operation."

Ed. □



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