

MEETINGS, 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
TIME: 7:30 P.M.  
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER  
Columbia Ave., Lancaster, PA

Mailing address:  
L.C.P.S.  
19 Circle Rd.  
Millersville, PA 17551

Next Meeting - Wed., MAY 11, 1999  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717) 872-2479

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:**

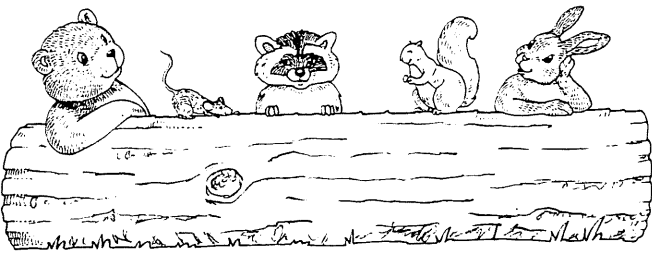
**MAY HOST**

Well, the show is over. From what we've seen and heard, we had another successful show. I have talked with several dealers and they were quite pleased with their sales and are looking forward to returning next year. Our attendance may have suffered a bit because of the nice weather and the other activities going on in Lancaster. We had an excellent turn out of members for the set up and tear down. I wish to thank them for their help.

Next year we may have to rearrange our exhibit location. More on this later.

Tonight our program is a stamp exchange between members. Bring your duplicates that you no longer need and exchange them with others. Marilyn Shirley will explain the program elsewhere in the Newsletter.

BILL GREINER



The host for May will be our treasurer, **DON WEBER**. Someone said they saw Don bidding on the extra "goodies" left over from the show last weekend. So, get ready for some well-preserved Tastycakes. What he saved on treats, he spent on stamps!

**MAY PROGRAM**

**PENNY TRADE SALES** -- will be the theme of our meeting for May. This should prove to be lots of fun!

We are asking you to go through your extra stamps you are willing to donate to the club. We will then spread out the stamps on the various tables and you go around the tables selecting whatever you want at a cost of one penny apiece. Bring whatever stamps you can spare and share!

We also will include some congratulatory back slapping on the success of our LANCOPEX show -- at least let's hope so.

If you get tired of the Penny Trade Sales, we will also have the APS books for your perusal, too.

MERCHANTVILLE, NEW JERSEY  
by Herman Herst, Jr.

Merchantville, NJ is well known among stamp collectors for possessing one of the most active stamp clubs in the country. A half century ago it was known to philatelists for very different reasons.

It was not only Merchantville, towns near there such as Woodbury, Moores-town, Haddonfield and Westfield were well known to stamp dealers for being the location of the richest philatelic treasure trove known to the trade.

One can only guess at the reason. Philadelphia was possessed of some of the most important stamp dealers this country ever boasted of. Of course, such giants as Eugene Klein and Philip H. Ward, Jr. are remembered to this day, but there were also many others. There was also P.M. Wolsiefer, who let the world know on his stationery that he had invented the approval card.

Some collectors were amassed in philatelic holdings that rivalled those of the average dealer. Dr. H.E. Radasch was one of these. Perhaps the largest holder of early aero-nautical covers in its days of infancy since Joseph Steinmetz. And, one of the nation's leading philatelic newspaper editors, Elmer Stuart, conducted a weekly column in the Camden Currier-Post. So well known was his column that it was surrounded each week by dozens of ads of stamp dealers, not all of them from the Philadelphia area.

Further, Camden's Walt Whitman Hotel was the site for one of the East's best attended stamp shows and bourses, to which the newer New York City dealers paid close attention. It seems incredible what was brought to the Walt Whitman Hotel in the early 1930's. The 1893 Columbians

had not yet started the sensational climb that came in the late 1930's; I still recall paying \$12 for some very nice \$5 ones. The 5-cent 1847 was only \$5 in Scott at the time, and since there was no Specialized catalog, multiples did not bring an appreciable premium.

The Philadelphia auctioneers regularly turned up material that brought the newer New York boys to Philly regularly, this writer included. Few of us had cars, but the Pennsy Railroad ran frequently for only a couple of dollars round trip.

My best day there was the sale of the Radasch accumulation of U.S., sold by Eugene Klein. Please do not doubt my recollection of the sale of several lots of 100 each of Cape Triangles, not lots of U.S. Black-jacks sold by the hundred. The New Yorkers had little competition from collectors; the lots were just too large.

The greatest sales consisted of the stock of Bogert Durbin, one of the most important dealers at the turn of the century. The stock occupied many trunks and cartons at the Girard Trust Company, who, incredibly, did not keep it under lock and key.

Enter George Weimer. George lived near Merchantville. His knowledge of better U.S. stamps was phenomenal. He had his sources for material in the Merchantville area, and periodically he would come to New York loaded with the choicest bits of early U.S. any of us had seen in a long time.

George was scrupulously honest. His material was always properly described; his prices more than fair. I was lucky that he made my office at 116 Nassau Street his regular first stop. It was only a lack of capital that kept me from buying some of his more expensive items.

My curiosity grew with each visit from George. A dealer can often guess the source of stamps that come to him for sale. They may be in an album or a stockbook, but they do not come hastily jammed into a white envelope. I asked George one day how he could find such beautiful material in such lovely condition and sell it at prices a buyer never dreamed of. I was not prepared for his answer.

"The Bogert Durbin lot is at the Girard Trust Company. The trunks are not locked. I suspected on one visit that someone was dipping into it. I carefully placed some nice used 19th Century as the top of the contents and made a mental note of how they were laid out. Next time I went I saw that they had been moved. Someone had gone to the trunk and removed some of the stamps. I figured that if someone else was helping himself, I ought to get my share."

I asked George if he had told Klein about the theft that was going on. He said he had not. I told him that I was not desirous of buying any more as long as I know where they were coming from. (For instance, once George came in with six copies of #R31c, the 6-cent Proprietary first issue revenue, for which he wanted \$50 each. Today, a single lists for \$1250. Also, blocks and plate number blocks of early commemoratives accompanied George on every visit. He knew his stuff.

I told George, "I strongly advise you to tell Klein what is going on. If someone at the bank is stealing from the trunks, he should let them know -- but, above all, the trunks should be locked"

That is what George did, without telling Klein that he had also helped himself to stamps from the Estate. Klein, George told me, did not appear surprised. "There is so much material there that I don't think he cares. But the next time that Klein sent me down to get material for his next auction, I noticed that the trunks now had locks on them."

George continued to bring in material from the attics and vaults of collectors in the Camden area. A beautiful set of sheets of the 1904 Louisiana came in one day when my bank account was battered due to a purchase of several sets of blocks of the 1930 Zeppelins. (I went partners on the sheets with a dealer down the hall

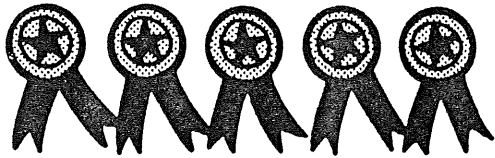
My last contact with George was a phone call asking if I was interested in ten sheets of the Harding imperforate, #611. I certainly was. A wealthy collector in Jamaica, NY was trying to "corner" that stamp and was paying retail for examples of it. I told George to bring them in the next Saturday and I phoned the investor, an automobile parts dealer, who said he would buy them.

George never showed, and to this day I have no idea of that happened to him. And, as far as I know, someone in the Merchantville area owns ten sheets of the Harding imperforate which, to my knowledge, have never come onto the market.

If anyone should ever ask me whether I have ever bought any stolen stamps, I am afraid that I must answer in the affirmative.

*AUTHOR'S NOTE: As long as the Girard Trust Company was one of Philadelphia's leading banks, I did not tell the story of George Weimer. The bank is no longer in existence.*

*Article from the "Monthly Bulletin" of the Merchantville Stamp Club.*



## AWARDS

### FIRST PLACE AWARDS WERE GIVEN FOR THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS:

Hungarian Newspaper Material -- ROBERT JENSEN

Kansas-Nebraska Overprints -- JOHN HUFNAGEL

Postmarks of Lancaster, Pennsylvania -- JIM BOYLES

Post Office Seals -- JIM BOYLES

Stamps of the Azores -- GORDON MILLER

### SECOND PLACE AWARDS WERE GIVEN FOR THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS:

Antarctica -- DON SMITH

Farm Implements -- RICHARD COLBERG

Mexico Postal Cards -- RICHARD COLBERG

Nature Is Alive -- JANNA HEYLER

Postmarks of Pennsylvania -- GLENN BLAUCH

Race Thru Space -- BENJI HEYLER

### THIRD PLACE AWARDS WERE GIVEN FOR THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS:

Norway -- ELLEN NAVE

Some Triangle Stamps -- LUCY EYSTER

Telegraph Stamps of the World -- DON SMITH

### GRAND AWARD AND APS AWARD

Hungarian Newspaper Material -- ROBERT JENSEN

### RESERVE GRAND AWARD AND BIA AWARD

Kansas-Nebraska Overprints -- JOHN HUFNAGEL

### LCPS AND POSTAL HISTORY AWARD

Postmarks of Lancaster, Pennsylvania -- JAMES BOYLES

### AAPE PINS

Farm Implements -- RICHARD COLEBERG

Nature Is Alive -- JANNA HEYLER

### TOPICAL AWARD

Antarctica -- DON SMITH

### APPLEBAUM NOVICE AWARD

Reptiles -- JOSHUA GALLOWAY

### BEST ONE-FRAME EXHIBIT

Post Office Seals -- JAMES BOYLES

Special congratulations is extended to the club members who were willing to share their hobby by exhibiting at the show. We encourage more members to think about next year's show and display an exhibit.

