



MEETINGS - 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
 STAUFFER MANSION - 7:30 P.M.
 1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
 Next Meeting - Wed. August 11, 1993
 (ANNUAL PICNIC)

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION
 CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717)872-2479 OR
 MIKE SHIRLEY(717)394-0186

VOL.4,NO.7 NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990 AUGUST 1993

JULY MEETING

opened at 7:35 p.m. -- President asked for quick minutes -- Secretary not there at last meeting, so that was quick--no minutes ready. Picnic discussed and sign-up sheet passed around.

Mint collection of Vatican is for sale -- contact Todd Dickel, West Willow.

Special welcome to JOHN FORD, a new member to our club. John works with Lucy Eyster. He collects plate blocks, plate number coils, single booklets (U.S. only). He lives in Brownstown. WELCOME ABOARD JOHN!

Business meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The members' bourse brought out a wide variety of stamps, covers and supplies both U.S. and foreign and much material exchanged hands.

September Host

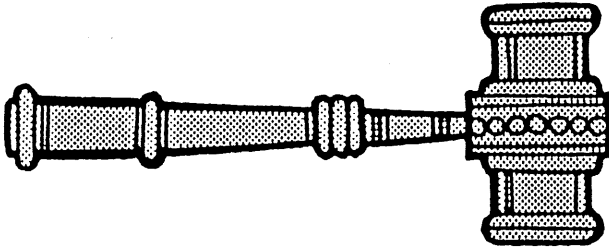
HOST FOR SEPTEMBER WILL BE MIKE SHIRLEY.



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

The program for September will be A "Show and Tell" Night. Exhibit some facet of your stamp collection and briefly describe it.



AN INTERVIEW WITH VETERAN AUCTION
ATTENDEE, DICK SHAEFER

Q. Your time is limited. How do you choose which auctions to attend? For example, one composed entirely of stamps as opposed to a general auction which casually mentions stamps amongst a variety of items?

A. By and large the better auction to attend is the one selling only stamps. While your competition will be other stamp collectors or dealers, the lots are of reasonable size, listed individually and usually have a value assigned to them. Estate auctions may list stamps and end up having one lot worth a couple of dollars or such a mess that it is hard to assign a value to what you are bidding on. The other problem with an estate auction is that you may encounter non-collectors bidding on stamp lots and driving prices up to unreasonable levels because they don't know better.

Q. How do you choose an auction on a day when several are being held thus spreading the competition?

A. Believe it or not, very seldom are there several auctions on the same day. If there are several at the same time I would always go to the auction that offered the most material I was interested in. Don't avoid an auction because you are afraid there will be competition. If you are the highest bidder, you will get the lot.

Q. Do you look for auctions in obscure areas that locals would find, but out-of-towners might not make an effort to find?

A. No. If the material is good enough to draw me to some out-of-the-way place other people will find the auction site also. You can also believe that any dealers in the local area have contacted all the auction

houses around and are usually contacted when good material is available.

Q. What of the Weather? Would you be more likely to attend in a heavy rain storm or with snow on the ground? What has been your experience attending auctions under adverse weather conditions?

A. Don't count on bad weather keeping people away. If the material is good enough to get me there, in bad weather, others will come. You can bet that if the weather is bad enough, the auction will get cancelled.

Q. At the auction, do you take written notes - estimating your bidding limit on lots you find desirable? Would you exceed these limits if the bidding became heated?

A. Always inspect the lots you are interested in and at least make a grading note on the lots. A stamp may not be fully described in the auction list and you need to make a determination on what you think the lot is worth. Once the bidding has reached your limit, drop out. It makes no sense to pay more for a lot than it is worth. Unless it is a very rare item, you can always get the item somewhere else. A word of caution about a bulk lot that has something of value in it. (This usually only happens at estate auctions). People have been known to switch an item from one lot to another so that they can get it for next to nothing. If you don't see it when the bidding starts, it may not be there.

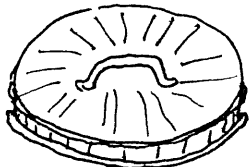
Q. What of the 10% buyers premium and 6% PA Sales Tax? Do you reduce your bid by 16% or do you believe 16% is a necessary service charge like postage and insurance on mail sales?

A. I do not adjust a bid because of the add-on costs. I do take it into account when determining the total amount I have to spend at an auction, but that is the only time. Remember that the 10% buyer's premium reduces the amount the seller pays in commissions and this attracts better material for sale in my estimation.

Q. Do you size up the competition to determine who are dealers who must have every lot and who will outbid you no matter what?

A. I look to see who is at an auction but for just the opposite reason. Stamp dealers are a very good barometer of the value of an item. Because of their knowledge of the stamp market and stamp values, they will not bid more for a lot than is reasonable because they must make a profit on the item when they sell it. Non-dealers can be the same way. Sometimes I will bid on a lot only because it is a nice item not because I need the item for my collection. However, because it is not a critical item for me I will drop out of the bidding at a lower level than if I need the item to fill a space.

Thank you, Dick, for your informative answers to questions that many collectors have pondered. Hopefully, we can impose on you for another article on auctions in the future.



JL #147 MNH

A COLLECTOR IS A COLLECTOR,
IS A COLLECTOR,

by Jim Lyman

As never before, stamp collecting must compete for the free time and discretionary income of hobbyists. At a time when jobs are becoming more difficult to find, and hold, when "mad" money must be used to pay steadily rising taxes and escalating costs of living necessities, paradoxically, everything seems to have become collectible.

Should you decide to collect garbage can lids, you would soon discover the availability of a current Guide to Collecting Covers, for Garbage Cans, that is, at \$29.95 + \$4.50 shipping a pop. Dealers would be happy to send you their pricelists. The more established dealers would have in stock lids from the golden and silver ages of lids in addition to the plentiful modern age ones. Reading the weekly column in your Sunday paper will keep you abreast of new developments in garbage can lid technology. After all, the astute collector must be well grounded in the various processes and production methods, have access to the latest literature on new issue lids, quantities produced and other pertinent information affecting not only the ordinary collector pursuing his/her hobby strictly for the gratification in amassing hundreds of lids and covers in various sizes, colors and composition but the investor, as well.

A monthly newsletter (\$19.95 yearly) will put you in touch with hundreds of your fellow devotees in the U.S. and overseas. Caution must be exercised if you are offered east European and third world country lids for your genuine made in Hong Kong ones. Since you cannot collect all the garbage can lids that have been produced since 1823 when first Joe Jabrony thought to put a lid on it, you may wish to specialize.

A bit of background here. Early covers were made of a mix of tin and zinc and later, galvanized for better wearability. These covers constitute the golden age of lids and will cost you the most bucks, since few people thought to save mint specimens of covers were made of a mix of tin and zinc and later, galvanized for better wearability. These covers constitute the golden age of lids and will cost you the most bucks, since few people thought to save mint specimens of early covers and used covers were

generally pounded out of shape and so rusted as to make repairing too expensive. Besides, most advanced collectors, and certainly investors, would not want to number such restored covers in their holdings.

The silver age of covers ushered in the era of vinyl. More durable than earlier metal covers, cheaper to manufacture and being pliable; the vinyl lid introduced the next great advance in cover collecting. COMMEMORATIVES! Some zealous entrepreneurs began marketing single lids honoring national political figures. As these were quickly scooped up by discriminating collectors, accumulators and hoarders, the marketeers saw the need to saturate the market with extended sets paying homage to such events as the 25th millionth anniversary of the birth of dinosaurs.

The hobby soon got out of control. Collectors began roaming the streets, snatching lids from cans put out for pick-up. Coming full circle, flies returned, swarming about open garbage cans as before Jabrone's great invention which had thwarted the flies for over one hundred years. Order was finally restored, when as a public service, garbage can lid producers donated hundreds of millions of generic covers to businesses and home owners. Too common to collect, lid collectors ignored them and possible epidemics were averted.

The modern era began with the introduction of plastic lids.

While the quality of lids deteriorated, the use of inexpensive plastic opened up the field to millions of more collectors. Collectors early on realized they could not mount their garbage can lids in albums like they used to do with stamps. Artfully arranged covers appeared on all walls in the home. Each room having its own

theme, butterflies in the dining room, snails in the kitchen, rodents in the basement. Divorces became rampant as non-collector spouses became resentful when art-on-lids invaded the bedroom.

Most neophyte collectors begin with the plastic covers that delineate the modern era. One must discriminate though, as it is possible to acquire a modest collection of several thousand lids in short order. As in any hobby, it is best to buy the finest lid you can afford, as it is sure to increase in value over the years, while cheap covers will always be cheap.

If my article has piqued your interest in this fascinating and rewarding hobby and inspired you to join the legions of happy garbage can lid collectors, you may wish to attend the 3rd Annual National Convention of Lid Collectors to be held in Los Angeles, 7-9 October, '93. An International Convention is tentatively planned for Milau, Italy in '94.

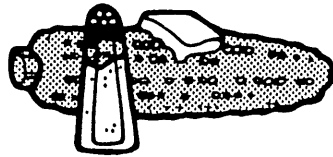
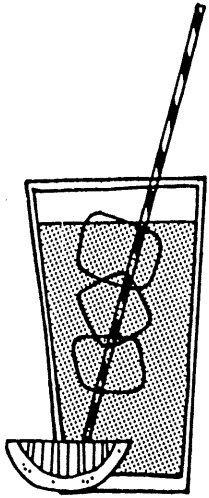
(Jim: Have you been sniffing your watermark solution too much lately?--Newsletter Staff)



S O C I A L N O T E

THERE WILL NOT BE ANY NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER. The staff members with all the bucks will be traveling to Alaska and Europe respectively. Any questions? Jim and Mike will be around to answer them.--- There is absolutely no connection between the above travel item and the picnic raffle. However, Marilyn and Sarah urge everyone to bid with abandon.

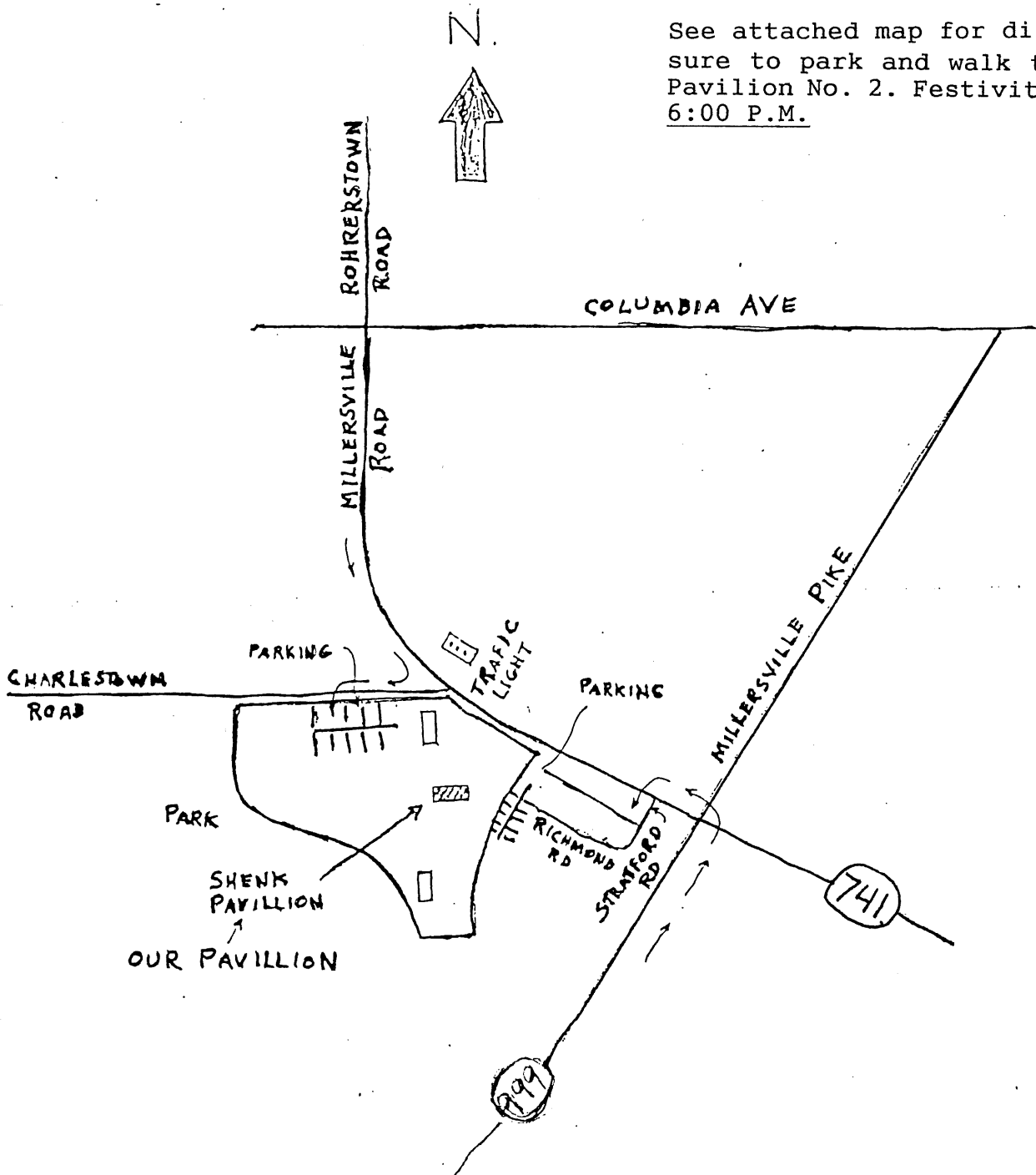
LAST CALL FOR PICNIC



If you haven't done so already, call Dan Anspach at (717) 397-8895 and tell him the number of people in your party and what dish you are bringing. It can be a hot dish, salad or dessert.

ADDED ATTRACTION: Bring some extra change for a raffle, the proceeds going to the club treasury. You will be bidding on some marvelous mystery items.

See attached map for directions. Be sure to park and walk to the Shenk Pavilion No. 2. Festivities start at 6:00 P.M.



The following article was printed in the Saturday July 31st New Era Newspaper. Our club is planning a bus trip on Saturday, October 23, 1993 to visit this museum. It will cost \$14.00 per person. See your July newsletter for details. Get your money or check to CHUCK KILGORE as soon as possible if you plan to go with the group.

National Postal Museum opens in Washington



Visitors to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum gather underneath old mail planes during the museum's opening Friday.

Knight-Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — Benjamin Franklin, first postmaster general of the United States, undoubtedly would give his stamp of approval to the newest treasure to join the capital city's museum-rich tradition.

In countries such as Britain, France, Denmark, Germany and Japan, postal museums have been a part of the national heritage for many years. As of Friday, our own postal legacy finally got its due — and a home.

The National Postal Museum is the latest addition to the Smithsonian family, occupying 75,000 square feet inside the beautiful beaux-arts style building that once served as Washington's city post office.

Flanked by Union Station on the east side and a view of the Capitol Building to the south, the museum took almost three years to plan and construct, at a cost of \$15.4 million that was picked up by the U.S. Postal Service. The Smithsonian Institution and the Postal Service will share the museum's daily costs. The museum's hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Admission is free.

HOW'S THAT AGAIN???

Edythe Hanson of Mesa, Arizona sent us this collection of "bloopers" she found in church bulletins. She says all of them are authentic and taken directly from written announcements.

1. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

2. Thursday at 5 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers will please meet the pastor in his study.

3. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Brown to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

4. Ladies of the church have cast off clothing of any kind, and they can be seen in the church basement on Friday afternoon.

5. On Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the expense of the new carpet. All wishing to do something on the carpet, please come forward and get a piece of paper.

6. Tonight's sermon: "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practicing.

(As printed in the "Premiere Collector's Edition" of REMINISCE magazine)

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