

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., November 13, 1996

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

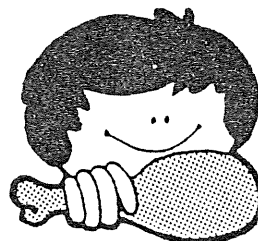
VOL. 7, # 8 NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990 NOVEMBER 1996

GREETINGS,

November is the month for elections. It is not just for electing a new president of America but also for electing officers of the Lancaster Stamp Club - Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary. LUCY EYSTER automatically becomes our new President next year. We have three wonderful candidates who are running for the offices, so I hope everyone makes it to our next meeting so we can vote them in unanimously.

At our last meeting we discussed our plans for the Christmas party. A committee was formed to locate a place for this year's party. They will report to us what they have found and what their recommendations are at our next meeting. I then gave a speech about buying stamps at a public auction and a mail-bid sale. I got very good feedback on the topic and I am glad everyone enjoyed it.

At our next meeting the program will be first the election of officers for 1997, and then possibly I might still bring a speaker. Finally, Leslie will be bringing in stamps for members to pick at for a fee. It seemed like everyone enjoyed it back in September so we agreed to do it again. Hope to see everyone there.  
Peter Billis,  
President



NOVEMBER HOST

According to the March Newsletter, BOB ALLISON and DONALD WEBER are signed up for hosting the meeting this month.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Hopefully we will have a "Mystery Guest" speaker in November.

The balance of stamps from the September meeting mixture will be put out after the business portion of the November meeting. For a donation to the club treasury, members can go through them. Remember, pick all you want; but need all you pick!

# OCTOBER MEETING

The Christmas Party was discussed at length. LUCY EYSTER, MARILYN SHIRLEY AND JIM LYMAN were appointed to the Christmas Party Committee. JIM had done some preliminary work on selecting a location. Brunswick Hotel still had the Sarah Bernhardt Room available for the second Wednesday in December. However, when it was reported that the dinners with the Hors D'oeuvres would run us, including 16% gratuity and 6% sales tax, \$22 to \$24 each, it was deemed too expensive.

In addition, DICK SHAEFER stated the club would be in no position to absorb some of the expense as was the case in prior years. It's not that the club treasury is hurting, but that the '97 LANCOPEX requires so much upfront money for expenses that no money is available at this time to spend on the party. MARILYN reported that the Comfort Inn would cost about the same.

We discussed holding the party at our meeting place with everyone bringing a covered dish, but the idea was tabled. DAVE STRAYER mentioned that the Knights of Columbus located on New Danville Pike has a Blue Room where dinners were held. If we secured the room, the next step would be to select a caterer. Before this article is printed the Christmas Party Committee will have met and considered our options which will be printed further along in this issue of the Newsletter.

\* \* \*

The fact that there was no money available to subsidize the Christmas Party led to a discussion on how to raise more funds. Our club dues are low at \$5.00 (When was the yearly dues last raised?) Maybe raise the dues

and some part of it be set aside for the Christmas Party. Since postage for the Newsletter is the club's largest expense, it was suggested it be published only six times a year. This proposal was met with a resounding no. It made our Newsletter staff feel good to be wanted! Another member wanted each member to include "X" amount of .32 cent stamps with his/her dues to offset the amount that the treasury spends on Newsletter postage. Nothing was resolved, but there is much to think about.

\* \* \* \*

DICK SHAEFER and I both attended the same auction on the Saturday prior to the meeting. DICK discussed what a disaster a stamp auction can be both to the estate and the collectors bidding. The material was spread out over two large tables in assorted boxes, albums, stock books, glassines, used envelopes, odd containers. The lots were not numbered. The bidder had to look through an album or box to see what he thought was of value and make a note what to bid. But when your lot was in the white box and there were at least six of them and the auctioneer moved them around, the bidder was only guessing and if he secured the lot he could only hope it has the material he wanted.

I would guess from the haphazard way the material was preserved, the estate realized about 10 cents on the dollar of what they would have gotten. Both DICK and I were pleasantly surprised by the lots we won. Not knowing what to expect, we certainly were not disappointed.

\* \* \* \*

The meeting was attended by only sixteen members but it was the best meeting we've had in recent memory. The guest speaker promised for October was unavailable, but has been rescheduled for November.

Menu

- Italian Wedding Soup
- Garden Salad  
(three dressings)
- Red Bliss Potatoes with Dill
- Carrrots with Pineapple
- Stuffed Chicken Breast  
or  
Roast Beef
- Surprise Desert

Rolls & Butter                      Coffee/Tea

\*For those who wish something stronger than punch, a wet bar is readily available.

We will have a gift exchange with a \$5.00 value. Of course, only those who bring, will get.

Maps will be available at the November meeting and will be enclosed with the December Newsletter.

The price will be \$16.00 each. By mail you can reserve by sending your check to:

JIM LYMAN  
150 Oak Knoll Circle  
Millersville, PA 17551

JIM LYMAN must have your check or money for the Christmas Banquet by December 2, 1996.

And remember to indicate your choice of entree. You may also pay at the November Club meeting.

If anyone can play a musical instrument -- even if you haven't touched it in years, see MARILYN.

So, plan on attending. We assure you a fine dinner and a fun filled evening!

\* \* \* \*

PETER BILLIS, club president, save the best for last in his term as president as he gave a talk on Auctions that was both informative and entertaining. Describing the difference between "floor" auctions and "Mail Bids", he had a number of catalogues on hand to illustrate both types. He delved into shady auction practices and techniques in bidding.

Some sales will give you the winning bid at only a bidding increment over the next highest bid. Such as second highest bid \$100 and you bid \$150. You get the bid at \$110 (if the increment at that point was \$10.) Other Mail Bids will charge you the full \$150 bid you made. PETER explained that he saw the identical write-up on a bulk lot that was presumably sold to the highest bidder, in three successive catalogues. The best buys are at auctions, but be sure you know what you are doing and don't get caught up in a frenzy of bidding.

CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANS CONTINUED...

After considering having the party at our meeting room, we decided that the lack of a suitable date, expenses, no piano or Christmas Tree made the Maple Grove location unsuitable. We were very pleased with the facilities at the Knights of Columbus on New Danville Pike.

One important item pertains to the date. We could not reserve the our regular meeting night, but had to settle for the next evening. Therefore, the CHRISTMAS BANQUET WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1996 AT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. Without giving away any plans, suffice to say that the time and schedule will be:

- 6:00 -7:00 p.m. Hospitality Hour \*
- 7:00 p.m.                      Sit Down Dinner

It is not too early to pay your 1997 Club dues. See Dick Shaefer at the November Meeting.

## Giving thanks for Thanksgiving

It's the best of all holidays. You don't have to dress up in a costume. You don't have to buy a present or trim a tree. You don't have to hide eggs, buy a new outfit, be a valentine or shoot off fireworks.

Thanksgiving is a day we celebrate family. Kids watch the parades, men watch football and women watch turkeys brown by the minute. It has always been that way.

As a kid, I remember it as a day my grandfather was allowed to smoke cigars in the house. A day when all the children were allowed to bang on the piano without Grandma closing the lid on their fingers. A day when no one ragged my Uncle Wesley about getting a job or reminded my Aunt Mildred she didn't need another baby.

It was a day Grandma baked extra loaves of yeast bread for everyone to take home, and no one complained about the cost of the food we were eating. It was a day that, no matter how poor we were, nickels and dimes always

ERMA  
BOMBECK



appeared to send the kids to the neighborhood picture show after dinner.

I can never remember my family offering grace or thanks before a Thanksgiving dinner. It was always an awkward moment when they seemed to want to, but they felt like they didn't have the right words. So my uncle would yell something like, "Over the lips and over the gums, watch out stomach, here it comes."

Given that, there was something significant about our reunions: We all showed up for them. I cannot remember a Thanksgiving during my childhood that all of Grandma's children and their large families were not seated on

milk boxes, piano stools, vanity benches, folding chairs and glider swings around her table.

And in return for our dedication, we took something away with us (besides Grandma's loaf of yeast bread). We took away a sense of belonging to something that was bigger than us, richer than us, better than us, stronger than us — that would outlive us all. If there was a death, unemployment, ill health, domestic problems, it didn't matter. Every Thanksgiving, we all returned to that house to bind up our wounds before we returned again to life outside the cocoon. But we always knew it was there.

I guess what I'm saying is, it doesn't matter today if the dishes don't match, there aren't enough chairs to go around, you're using soup spoons to stir coffee, the turkey is too small, the pumpkin pies are runny, you borrowed from the credit union to get there, and all the kids are driving you crazy.

You have a place to be, and you are blessed.

If you are attending the Christmas Party and know of a member who doesn't drive at night, please contact him or her and offer to drive. Conversely, if you need a ride call JIM LYMAN, 872-6114 or MARILYN SHIRLEY, 872-2479 and either will put you in contact with a driver. So there is no reason to miss the party!!!

November 1996