

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County-



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, #173  
Chapter #118 of the American Topical Assn.

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 14 September 2011

Bourse opens at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Lou DiFelice

**Stamp Trading** to Begin Following the Evening's Program

## Message from the President

Greetings. Well, the picnic is now past, and it seemed to be a success. Many thanks to Mike Shirley for his donation of the charcoal and his time spent cooking and, of course, to Paul Petersen who helped with the cooking. I don't know whether it was the brand of burgers or the grilling, but mine was especially tasty. My thanks to all who brought some sides or desserts.

In that regard, let me offer some thoughts towards the future. Throughout my life when attending a picnic, it was usually the standard thing to bring one of your favorite recipes that you had to make for the event. Of course not

everyone can bake or cook and thusly some would bring something "store bought" so that they too could say that they brought something for all to share. Well, this picnic was not standard. It seemed that the majority of items brought were "store bought" and that there was an overabundance of desserts (about 70%) over side dishes. (I served myself last, and by then only a few spoonfuls of sides were available.)

Perhaps some of this is my fault for lack of better organization. But hopefully in the future we'll have sign-up sheets giving specifics of what is needed such as salads, pastas, fruits, baked goods,

munchies, and more. This will give us more choices and better balance of sides to desserts.

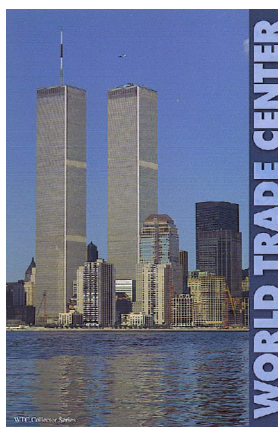
I am hoping that you remembered to gather together your auction items to bring to this year's final auction at the upcoming meeting. I also feel that we should gather together after the meeting to reopen our discussion of things that need to be done for next year's Lancopex. So jot down your thoughts to bring up at the meeting. I will be asking for volunteers in regards to the December Holiday Dinner. So if you have any thoughts on that, bring 'em. See ya all very soon.  
**jmb.**

## PSLC Fall Auction is Here

As club president John M. Bray noted above, the fall auction is a good time to clear out. The auction team is ready: Jim Boyles, Dick Shaefer, RD Noble, Woody Hann, and Lou DiFelice. The rules remain the same as in previous auctions. • The minimum bid is \$1.00. • The minimum increment when bidding is 50¢. • Each club member is limited to 10 lots. • A number will be assigned to you when you arrive and register. Please place this number on all your lots. Attach an item/lot description including catalogue number, value if appropriate, and minimum bid accepted.

This will speed things up a great deal. • Fiscal transactions will only take place after the last item has been sold. Further, the auction committee recommends the following: • Bring cash whenever possible to pay for the items you win and • Keep a running total of items you have won and sold based on the prices realized. • Finally, be sure to firmly attach your sales information (lot description, cat. value, min. bid etc.) to the item. This will insure that items are represented accurately. • Let's make this the best auction to remember for many years to come.

## Remembering



**Tuesday, 11 September 2001**  
This day will live in infamy. Islamic terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. Let us never forget those we lost that tragic day.

Volume 74, No. 9

September, 2011

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Visitors Always Welcome

PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 7:00 PM. Dues are \$10.00. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

President:

John M. Bray

Vice President:

Vacant

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Lou DiFelice

Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640

pcpetersen@comcast.net



## September Bio Bob Epler

Probably a first for the club, Bob shared that his older brother started a stamp collection for him before he was born! He has been fairly consistent in his collecting ever since, starting with U.S (through 1940), then he moved on to some exotic countries such as Fiji and Tahiti. Until the mid 1990s, Bob collected Russian 1865-1917 Zemstvos. His latest collecting has been to "collect what appeals." This includes some U.K. such as their upcoming set on the launching of the *HMS Titanic*. He is also seeking early stamps of the world's newest countries such as South Sudan which is the latest.

Bob was a history and political science teacher including 30 plus years at the high school level, then to Penn State, at both the State College and Hazleton campuses. Following this he was with the PA Dept. of Ed. in the Office of Civil Rights. Upon retirement, and at the behest of his friend and director, he worked in fundraising for the American Lung Association. Something that he especially enjoyed was presenting a Christmas Seals slide show to many local community organizations.

Early in WWII, Bob's father joined the navy and served on a destroyer which saw much action in the Pacific. Since that time Bob has had an interest in the naval war and for the last ten years has been a member of the U.S. Ship Cancellation Society.

Bob ran in a tight race for mayor of Lancaster against Art Morris in 1979. He and his wife Brittna (also a retired teacher) have two daughters and grandsons.

## Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Awards, Trip, and Shows

### 2011-12 Programs and Hosts

**14 September:** Club Auction. **Host:** Lou DiFelice

**12 October:** Show 'n Tell: Your Best Stuff. **Host:** Lucy Eyster

**9 November:** The First Aerial Post in England (September, 1911), Mike Bach. **Host:** John R. Ahlfeld

**14 December:** Dinner.

**11 January 2012:** Club Auction. **Host:** TBA

**8 February 2012:** Swiss Philately, a DVD by the Helvetia Society. **Host:** TBA

**2010 APS Chapter Newsletter Award:** The *PSLC Newsletter* received a vermeil award in the recent competi-

tion at **APS Stamp Show** in Columbus with 82/100 points.

**Stamp Club NYC Bus Trip:** Thursday, 13 October. All day.

**Upcoming Show Reminders: Reading Stamp Club 2011 Stamp Show:** Sat. 5 November.

**Buxmont Stamp Show:** Sat. 22 Oct. Warminster. Questions: Call Lesley Botte at (717) 484-4700.

## Attracting New Collectors-Plan B Al Schaub

*[Ed's note: This is part-2 of Al's article from the 12/06/99 issue of Linn's]*

As I see it, Plan B gives recognition to the fact that the lives of most people in the teen and young-adult age categories are so filled with other demands that there is a lack of time, money, and interest to invest in the stamp hobby.

But what about those same people when they reach the fifth decade of their lives? To the point, Plan B involves the development of a more intense and creative effort to reach people from about age 40 through the rest of their lives.

Bringing new collectors into the community and reviving the interest of former stamp collectors requires the application of some basic principles of motivation.

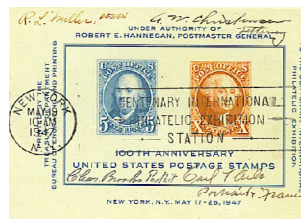
We motivate people when we present them with actions they can take to meet their personal needs, wants,

and aspirations.

What do we say to the mature person, who, when invited to join the stamp community, asks: "What's in it for me?"

Here are some responses.

The stamp hobby can be pursued for any length of time, at any time of the day or night, and in any weather condition.



For people leading excessively hectic, fast-paced lives, the slow passive pace of philatelic activity contributes to stress reduction.

Stamp collecting can be pursued at almost any level of income. Many adult collectors have assembled excellent collections from bargain boxes, just as there

are others who have created priceless collections.

Philatelic activities can be accomplished in isolation or pursued as a social activity. Besides being an outstanding family activity, the stamp hobby can do much to enhance friendships and provide social activity through clubs and stamp shows. If preferred, though, it is also an activity that one can enjoy alone.

Humans crave a sense of wholeness and completion in their lives. By properly setting boundaries as to what constitutes the completion or near completion of a stamp collection, a sense of wholeness can be achieved.

This can be combined with a sense of challenging exploration as one pursues elusive items. A balance between achieving completeness and always having something new to search for is a common state-of-affairs for collectors who find joy in the stamp hobby. **(Part-3 next issue.)**





## USPS in 2021? PSLC Members Speak Out

**Bob Rothen** does not see the USPS disappearing, but it will take a “significant turn.” Rates will increase while deliveries will decrease. There’ll be fewer POs, and it is conceivable that we will all have to have PO boxes and pick up our own mail, but “this is unlikely.” Bob adds that he desires some meaningful stamps of a more classic nature but qualifies that this is a “collector thing.” ♣

“I’m afraid the idiots in congress will want to save money now by closing down



the current system and selling all the various functions to the highest bidders (which the PO Bureau would oversee), while still requiring snail mail to use either a government-or computer-issued postage (for both of which we would still pay a government fee).” **Dennis Shomaker** goes on to recommend a less radical alternative to keep the current system: Cut Saturday delivery; close down or consolidate smaller offices; and have congress pass a bill into law that requires a monthly surcharge on email that every ISP would have to collect. ♣

**Bob Epler** laments that he may be in the minority, but he will continue to send hand written letters qualifying that he is not getting many in return, even now. It is everyday things that portend the future of USPS. This includes for example, the in-

creasing use of email and the encouragement of businesses who wish to go paperless and do everything online. Very little will come through the mail slot from personal, to business, to solicitation material. USPS may be reduced to delivering parcels, and while they still exist in printed form, magazines and catalogues. Postal staff and facilities will be greatly reduced in number. Stamps will remain for intended use but also as a source of income for USPS. ♣

A local postal clerk told **Eleanor Wheeler** that the amount of income gained by increasing the 1st class rate from 44¢ to 50¢ would be more than enough to make the PO profitable. Eleanor notes that the rates in Germany are higher than in the U.S. and they consolidated their services into smaller offices and placed them in supermarkets and small retail stores similar to the PO Branch in Weis Market on Fruitville pike. This is also very convenient when going to the market. ♣



**Dave York** believes that diminished mail volume will require a heavy subsidy which might come from a tax on purchases over the internet. He sees many private-public partnerships with ongoing development to maintain a system that on the surface appears much like today’s USPS. However the size of the postal system will continue to shrink

as employees retire and mail volume declines. Dave concludes that the USPS will still be around in many years functioning much as it does today. ♣

“I would hope that the post office and delivery system would stay just as they are now” writes **Joy Bouchard**. Like Eleanor, Joy expects to see mini PO stations attached to or within large grocery stores or department stores in malls or Wal-Mart. They may have some problems with a large volume of packages because of space. Saturday mail may also become something of the past, but she hopes not. ♣

**Diane Meek** notes that a variety of things come to mind as she reflects over the postal service. She can’t recall a time when mail was **not** delivered to where she was living. She may have taken the service for granted, that a 44¢ stamp will take a first class letter across the country in less than a week. Since college, Diane has been exchanging letters with a friend who does not own or use a computer. For many, a hand-written card or letter is the next best thing to a visit with that person; this keeps us connected. Going to the mailbox is like receiving a gift every day. Finally Diane remarks how stamp collectors value the mail because this is the nuts and bolts of the hobby. She votes for doing what it takes to keep this service available for many years. ♣



## Stamps Can Be Fun For Everyone

Opportunities abound for sharing the hobby with the residents of Oak Leaf Manor (OLM) in Millersville.

Marilyn Shirley has always enjoyed the stamp club and building her collections. Mike S. had the idea to bring stamps to all the residents at Friendship Hall. We worked with the enthusiastic support of the program director at OLM, Robin Simpson. A few weeks ago I brought stamps and envelopes for everyone to enjoy, and there was a lot of looking and sorting going on at each table. I encouraged each to take and save (in their envelopes) their favorite stamps. My biggest pleasure was to see Marilyn filling three envelopes...these were all the stamps left at her table after the others were done with picking their favorites.

These great folks would enjoy an hour visit from any of you interested in sharing your stamps, postcards, other collectibles, or other topics. Tell some stories how you got interested in a given subject. Encourage the others to talk of their lives, interests, collections, and more. Let them reminisce and enjoy doing this.

People bring in their pet dogs to share with the folks, so your session does not have to be stamp-related.

Sessions are usually in the mid-afternoon, but the day of the week is negotiable to accommodate your schedule when arranged in advance.

I’ll be available at the September auction to discuss any issues that you may have. If you have specific questions of the Oak Leaf Manor Facility, Robin Simpson (872-9100) would be glad to hear from you. If several of us took an afternoon each year, we could hold a monthly stamp/reminscing group. Please think about it.

Diane Meek



# Musings

(September, 2011)

## Uncle Albert and the 40th Anniversary of USPS

We must have all been too busy planning our July 4th celebrations to notice the 40th anniversary of the United States Postal Service on 1 July. All I remember from that 1971 summer was trying to get from class to clinic at NYU. This was never an easy feat in a busy and crowded city.

The U.S.P.O.D transitioned from a cabinet position to a government agency with the Postmaster General responsible to a Board of Governors.

Never wasting an opportunity to create a new stamp and cover, they created one of each with the new United States Postal Service logo.

Glenn Estus discusses these postal items in his "First Day Coverage" column in the *Stamp Insider* (July/August, 2011, Pg. 4).

To sweeten the opportunity, USPS printed a gazillion (30 million, actually) cacheted envelopes with the old and new logos in full color. These were shipped to the 35,000 U.S. post offices. On the cover was "The First Day of Issue" to the left side of the logos and "Inaugurating the United States Postal Service, July 1, 1971" beneath the logos.

The covers were free to the public when purchased with an 8¢ stamp. Cancelling was available. The District of Columbia had the "official" First Day of Issue cancel. A few other POs created their own special first day cancels. Other POs used their regular cancel with the 7/1/71 date slug. About 50% of the inaugu-

ral covers were cancelled.

Estus described the philatelic bonanza that followed, known as the **7-1-71 Affair**. Here was an opportunity to collect identical covers and dates from almost every PO in the country. One can collect their county or state at reasonable rates. Estus collects Clinton and Essex counties from upstate NY, and after 40 years he still lacks some from this area.

Even more, Estus notes that Roy E. Mooney has compiled a catalog of these USPS covers from the mid-1970s. This is available on-line at [www.remcatalog.com](http://www.remcatalog.com). The site contains information about the issues, their numbers, and prices. Prices for the PA covers range from \$1.00-\$12.00.

So who's this "Uncle Albert" guy? Albert John Klawitter (1894-1986) was born in the anthracite coal region of PA to German immigrant parents who

settled in Mt. Carmel, about 65 miles due north of Lancaster.

Albert was one of twelve children, and one of just five to reach sixty. A detailed genealogy shows the challenges to a family at that time and place from mine injuries to other trauma and childhood diseases.

Following a mine injury himself, Albert was fortunate to purchase a small home and grocery store in Aristes, PA, a few miles northwest of Mt. Carmel. In the sale he got the village post office! The population of Aristes in 2000 was 200.

My wife recalls her childhood visits to Uncle Albert and Aunt Mabel's store where they let her perform some small jobs. The PO was behind the grocery counter in the front corner with an elevated counter. The reference manuals, pigeon holes, and other files and supplies were

behind the counter and along the wall. There was a small half swinging door from the PO to the store proper. Behind the grocery was the kitchen, and the bedrooms were upstairs.

Sometime during the last ten years, I came across a 7-1-71 First Day of Issue cover from Aristes, PA. It somehow found its way to me, and I think it may have been from boxes on my wife's side of the family.

Uncle Albert was one of my wife's favorite relatives given his gentle spirit and generosity. He proudly maintained his certificate from Zion Primitive Methodist Church for 30 years of perfect attendance. He was a boxer in his youth, so his displaced nose along with the gravel voice that followed pharyngeal cancer made him tough in appearance. But the opposite was true. I had always heard how he helped feed many in Aristes during the Depression, recouping very little of what was owed to him. My wife thinks it may have been his postal income that allowed him to extend such grace to the community. He also took in a homeless child and raised her as his own-through college!

What an opportunity to own a cover that Uncle Albert probably cancelled when PM of Aristes, Pennsylvania. Ed□



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